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OPINION METER

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the closing of
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is on the quality of life
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INSIDE



Clinton Wins

Hillary Rodham Clinton ground out a gritty victory in the Pennsylvania primary Tuesday night.

NATION...Page 16

New Route

Torchbearers ran laps with the Olympic flame in front of an invitation-only crowd after Indonesian officials changed the relay route.

ASIA...Page 17



Global Fight

Nicole Kidman urged world leaders and ordinary people to join the global fight to end violence against women.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

Arts festival expecting 50,000-plus visitors. PAGE 2
Rota charter passengers to stay an average of 8 days. PAGE 5

Gas tax holiday proposed

Bill proposes suspension of gas tax for 2 days a month

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER



Rep. Ray Yumul, sponsor of the bill, says the measure would provide immediate relief from the skyrocketing cost of fuel in the Northern Marianas.

Yumul's proposal

of a "gas tax holiday" is not unique. Sen. John McCain, the Republican candidate for U.S. president, last week floated a

similar idea as part of his economic plan.

Under Yumul's bill, the CNMI

See GAS on Page 4

A local lawmaker has proposed to reduce gas prices by suspending the liquid fuel tax for two days a month.

'Irresponsible' bills slammed

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Two freshman lawmakers decried yesterday appropriation bills passed by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative

Delegation.

Rep. Edward Salas expressed disappointment that the delegation decided to take money out of a critical drainage project to pay land compensation to certain individuals.

"Not to say that these landowners are not entitled to remittances, but the government needs to set its priorities, and currently does not have the means to compensate land own-

See IRRESPONSIBLE on Page 4

'Permanent residency bill premature' Even as workers' groups rally behind measure

By AGNES E. DONATO and
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REPORTERS



long-time foreign workers in the Commonwealth, even as alien workers' groups rallied behind the passage of the measure.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said it is premature to come up with an improved immigration status for alien workers. He added that any such status given by the Commonwealth now will be rendered moot once Washington takes control of lo-

See PERMANENT on Page 4

Few doctors answer e-mails from patients

ON THE NET

American Medical Association:
<http://www.ama-assn.org>
E-Patient Blog: <http://e-patients.net>

By ALICIA CHANG
AP SCIENCE WRITER

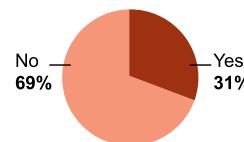
LOS ANGELES (AP)—Suzanne Kreuzinger is a registered nurse who uses e-mail almost exclusively to communicate with

See FEW on Page 4

Patients, doctors connecting online

Although online communications are increasing between patients and doctors, less than a third of physicians use it.

Physicians communicating with patients online 2007*



*Based on a survey of 1,353 practicing physicians in 1Q2007

SOURCE: Manhattan Research AP

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FLAME TREE SEASON

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
A woman reaches out for the flame tree flowers blooming at the American Memorial Park yesterday. This year's Flame Tree Arts Festival, which will run on April 24-27, 2008 at the Civic Center in Susupe, will feature the construction of a traditional Carolinian canoe—a sacred event opened to the public only in recent years—in keeping with this year's theme, "Fatta I Irenciata, Abwáári Yaasch Schówammwir, Showcase our Inheritance." See related stories on Page 2 and 6.

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Local

Arts festival expecting 50,000-plus visitors

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

Last year's Flame Tree Festival attracted at least 50,000 people to the event, according to the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, and it is hoping that the 27th edition of the annual festival will attract a much bigger turnout.

CCAC executive director Cecilia T. Celes said that an onsite survey was done two years ago to determine how many people attended the festival and "over 45,000 visited the Flame Tree

Arts Fest then. Last year we did an overall estimate of 50,000 who visited the site."

Celes said that each year, the Flame Tree Arts Festival attracts many people from around the world such as Germany, Australia, Russia and Switzerland.

"The people here may not be aware of this but it truly has attracted people from different parts of the world," she said.

The Flame Tree Arts Festival is Micronesia's largest annual arts and culture celebration, featuring traditional and contemporary visual, performing and

culinary arts from the region and beyond.

According to Celes, it serves as an opportunity for people to feature their culture.

"We all have come to be a part of each other, we live together in harmony and therefore we have opened that opportunity to the many other different cultures to promote themselves and their cultures," Celes said.

The Flame Tree Arts Festival,

which for many years was hosted at the American Memorial Park, goes back this year to its birth place at the Civic Center, which was the first hosting site of the festival.

"And it was in the early '90s when it moved down to the memorial park. Lately, there

were some issues in the past that we faced, such as federal regulations, insurance policies that we needed to provide, and the fee to host

RELATED NEWS

Food, arts and fun as arts festival opens today. **PAGE 6**

the site that we had to pay and with the very little budget that we operate on, we couldn't have hosted it there," Celes said.

Last year, the event organizers were skeptical that the Civic Center could draw as much number of people "because of the limited parking space."

"But we did the 26th annual here and people came," said Celes.

The Department of Public Lands has authorized the Flame Tree Arts Festival to be hosted at the Civic Center for free.

"The understanding that we have is to make sure that we are also facilitating a safe program and a safe event. So in lieu of the insurance and federal regulations [required by the AMP] and all that, we have police officers on site and we have the fire department for emergency purposes and manpower to go around picking up trash so they don't end up in the water," Celes said.

The event, which used to take only two days, will take place for four days at the Civic Center.

"As I was brainstorming I re-

alized that it takes us six months to prepare for a festival like this. I think it's only common sense for us to extend it so that we can give our community a longer opportunity and chance to see everything. And so from 2006 to date, our festival has been for four days and it will continue to be for four days as long as I'm the director," Celes said, laughing.

Celes said that even with the economic downturn, it's really about culture and togetherness that will draw a huge crowd.

"I think that...deep in the hearts of everybody, culture is very important. When it comes to culture, everybody's on the same page," Celes said.

She said the event would also serve as a perfect opportunity for people to realize the importance of culture and the arts.

"I think that no matter where you take the flame tree [festival], people will come. You can take this Flame Tree Arts Fest and put it at the airport field and people will come. That's how confident we are. We're a very small community and culture is still very important for all of us, and because of that people from the outside are interested to learn more about us," said Celes.

CHC's CT scan machine down for 3 weeks now

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Clinic has been without a CAT Scan for the past three weeks.

According to Department of Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, the island's single CT Scan "has been down for the past three weeks because of a burnt-out bulb that we had to order from the U.S."

Villagomez said the bulb has already arrived but then the hospital found out that a motor was down and needed to be replaced.

"The latest word from our vendor is that the motor is en route from Honolulu and should be here either tomorrow or Friday," Villagomez said.

A CT scan uses x-rays to take pictures of an individual's skull

and brain. The patient lies in a tunnel-like machine. The inside of the machine rotates and takes x-rays of the head from different angles, which are later used by computers to make an image of a cross-section of the brain.

The CT Scan is an essential medical equipment as it usually serves as one of the first tests done in stroke evaluation—particularly during an acute stroke—in an emergency room.

This test can show areas of abnormalities in the brain, and can help to determine if these areas are caused by insufficient blood flow, a ruptured blood vessel, or a different kind of a problem.

Villagomez said that the delay was not due to payment "but rather because of the distance from where we had to order the parts."

Another bush fire breaks out

Another big bush fire broke out yesterday afternoon on Saipan, sweeping down a portion of a mountain in Kannat Tabla.

Smoke blanketed some areas in Kannat Tabla, Chalan Laulau, and Chalan Kiya as the fire blazed for about two hours.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogunomo said that no one was reported injured and no house was destroyed.

Ogunomo said an estimated two acres of grassland were damaged by the flames.

She said the fire was reported to DPS at 2:02pm and was contained at 4pm.

Ogunomo said five firefighters responded to the area.

The cause of the fire is still unknown, she said.

A big bush fire also broke out at Wireless Ridge on Capital Hill on Monday. Ogunomo said yesterday that the fire was contained Monday at 9pm.

About 600 acres of grassland were damaged in that blaze, she added. (*Ferdie dela Torre*)

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11 more persons caught in illegal taxi operations

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Eleven more persons were arrested in the second phase of a crackdown on illegal taxis on Saipan spearheaded by the Department of Public Safety.

"These individuals have no respect for the laws of the Commonwealth," said DPS Commissioner Claudio K. Norita during a news briefing yesterday.

Norita said that as far as he is concerned, there will be zero tolerance for these individuals.

"[If] they're here to do business, then we welcome them to come in and do business. We welcome them to go and get their permits and license, pay the taxes and do business legitimately," he said.

The commissioner said that if these people don't want to play by the rules and laws of the CNMI, then the government

and the enforcement agencies will take them down.

Norita said that three of the four arrested were also found to be overstaying aliens.

The arrested operators were Taiguo Qian, 31; Songgen Gao, 29; Guang Xu Piao, 31; and Zi Qiang Jing, 44.

Qian, one of the operators, was also arrested for illegal employment after allegedly admitting that the company he worked for closed down in January 2008 and that he was operating his own illegal taxi.

Gao, Piao, and Jing allegedly admitted driving illegal taxis and were overstaying.

Two of the passengers—Zheng Gang Liu, 31, and Cheng Liang Li, 41—were arrested for overstaying.

The other passengers were released after being screened by the Attorney General's Investigative Unit personnel.

Norita said that four cars were also impounded, bringing to 14 the number of cars seized in the two operations that began Saturday night.

Throughout the operation, no serious incident occurred, according to Sgt. Sylvan M. Rangamar in his report.

Detective Jeff F. Olopai showed to the media some of the calling cards containing discount promotions for passengers who avail of the illegal taxi services.

Rangamar said that under the second phase of Strike Force Echo operation, law enforcers from the DPS Criminal Investigation Division, Labor Enforcement Section, and AGIU/Immigration conducted a sting operation in identifying illegal taxis within the western Garapan district on Tuesday at 4pm.

Rangamar said that Strike Force Echo went into full force

at 8pm, with assistance from the Patrol and Traffic officers.

Six taxis were stopped, but only four were impounded after

they were found to be illegal.

Last Saturday night, 12 persons were arrested—nine for operating taxicabs, one woman

for prostitution, and two men for overstaying. Ten vehicles used in the illegal taxi operation were also impounded.

ABTC division still understaffed

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Department of Commerce's Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division is still understaffed, according to the department's deputy secretary Michael Ada.

"The ABTC division is still understaffed. We have one vacancy due to the death of a staff member in the process of being filled. However, while we are waiting on that position to be filled, we had another staff member from ABTC resign because he was moving off-island. So, we are right back to square one," said Ada in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

To resolve the shortage in personnel, Commerce has resorted to getting help from the department's other divisions to fulfill some of the functions of ABTC, which recently have included

3,000-year-old Lapita jewelry found in Fiji

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive)—Archaeologists have discovered a 3,000-year-old pot in Fiji containing jewelry believed to have been made by the South Pacific's original settlers—the Lapita people.

The discovery was made by an excavation party from the Fiji-based University of the South Pacific and the Fiji Museum at Bourewa in Natadola on the Coral Coast.

The dig at Bourewa, which is the earliest human settlement in Fiji, unearthed the pot and a thick piece of "exquisitely decorated pottery".

The Lapita people were the first colonists of Pacific Island groups, including the eastern Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia,

See LAPITA on Page 4

presentations to the community.

"We are still using staff in other areas to assist with the shortage. The cool thing is that although we may be shorthanded, we are still out in the community enforcing ABTC regulations, but the ABTC division has also done several presentations to the high schools and PTAs regarding ABTC laws," said Ada.

"We have had positive response from the community in this effort. We are scheduled to present in the junior high schools in the coming weeks. So, although [ABTC is] short-handed, they have found a way to continue to respond to the

community's needs."

Despite the shortage in manpower, ABTC has been able to perform its duties. Last year, the division issued a total of 625 alcohol licenses to retailers, wholesalers, and establishment licenses (bars, restaurants, etc.) in calendar year 2007.

In addition, ABTC also issued 317 tobacco licenses, which included nine wholesale licenses and 308 retail licenses.

In the FY 2007, ABTC also cited four violations, which included three tobacco violations for not having the products in secure casings and one liquor violation for operating after hours.



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WASC: More support for TES students

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

Representatives of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges said that the Tanapag Elementary School needs to work more in providing instructional support for students so they could reach their full potential.

Four WASC representatives led by chairwoman Linda Kewin and members Cheryl Shintani, Kathryn Stratte, and Jayne Mondoy shared that "it's not like the school hasn't been doing it and it's not like you're not trying, but try to take a look at additional instructional resources to ensure that your students reach their full potential."

The students include English learners, Special Education, language learners, at-risk students, and high achievement students.

Kewin also pointed out the need for non-Highly Qualified Teachers to sub-



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Western Association of Schools and Colleges representatives receive a hug from Tanapag Elementary School teachers and staff.

mit their applications or the results of their Praxis tests.

The Public School System has a total of 374 HQTs, six of which are teaching at TES, according to a November 2007 report.

Otherwise, the WASC representatives praised the school in numerous areas such as the cleanliness of the school class-

rooms and campus, to its dedicated principal, faculty, staff and parents.

Kewin shared that she was very impressed with the students' eagerness to learn.

TES principal Frances Ulloa said she was not surprised about the key issues pointed out by the WASC team. "I'm not surprised about those key issues. I am gunning ho on that, I am looking forward to working on that because that's my plan this year to fully focus on accreditation. There's always room for improvement."

She added that without the help of the parents of the students, they would not have received much praise from the WASC representatives.

Education Commissioner David Borja said the WASC representatives will render their report to the accreditation commission and then a formal report of the school's fate will be released mid-June 2008.

PERMANENT

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cal immigration.

"We're not sure how effective this bill would be if the federal government takes over. It might be struck down," Reyes said.

The bill to be preflied in the House of Representatives proposes to allow long-time foreign workers to stay and work at will in the Commonwealth for five-year periods.

A foreign worker is eligible for a "resident foreign national entry permit" if he or she has lived legally in the CNMI for at least five years and has met character requirements. A resident foreign national entry permit is valid for five years and may be renewed.

Reyes said the administration would take its cue from the local community on how to treat this proposal. At this point, he said, there seems to be no clear consensus in the community on whether to grant more permanency to long-time guest workers, who are currently bound by one-year contracts.

Reyes also expressed doubt the bill will get past the Legislature. He said there

is no indication that the bill has strong support from members of the House of Representatives or the Senate.

"Maybe we [administration] won't even have to consider it," he said.

Strong support

Alien workers' groups, however, have expressed strong support for a bill, saying it would not only help long-time foreign workers but also their employers.

Human Dignity Movement president Jerry Custodio told *Saipan Tribune* that they are very happy with the bill and thankful to Rep. Tina Sablan and co-authors Heinz Hofschneider, Edward Salas, and Victor Hocog for coming up with the measure.

"We hope for its immediate passage and enactment. We hope and pray that it will be supported by Tina Sablan's colleagues," Custodio said.

Coalition of United Guest Workers (CNMI), a newly formed association composed of alien workers of different nationalities, has also stepped forward to offer its full support for the bill.

Coalition interim president Irene Tantiado, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, said that during their third

meeting yesterday, group agreed to throw its support behind the bill.

"At this point, the bill looks promising," said Tantiado, citing that the measure would grant some relief to guest workers in terms of security.

She also mentioned, among other things, that the bill would help the employers as it would not require them to pay the annual processing fees and other things.

"Then you can bring your families. It's very friendly to guest workers," Tantiado added.

Dekada Movement legal counsel Stephen Woodruff earlier stated that federalization and the initiative for long-term resident status for aliens can go hand-in-hand.

Woodruff said the initiative will provide the CNMI with a stable workforce and a fair, more just system of foreign contract labor to supplement the local workforce.

He said that if federalization happens, this initiative is one of the important steps for the CNMI to make the transition process become smoother.

Benefits of bill

Representatives Tina Sablan, Heinz

Hofschneider, Edward Salas, and Victor Hocog are sponsoring the proposed legislation.

The bill does not offer permanent residency, resident status, citizenship, or nationality to "resident foreign nationals." People granted the new status would still be considered aliens for immigration purposes, and are subject to deportation.

However, they would be able to live and work at will in the Northern Marianas in the same manner as a permanent resident. They would receive employment preference over other foreign workers. They can change employers freely. They can operate a business, be self-employed, and employ other foreign workers. They can bring immediate family members into the Commonwealth for the validity of their permit.

One tradeoff is that resident foreign nationals will no longer receive certain mandatory benefits such as 100-percent medical insurance coverage. They will have to negotiate such benefits with their employers.

At-will employment

Sablan said the proponents of the bill are aware the federal law would supersede all local immigration laws once

IRRESPONSIBLE

From Page 1

ers," Salas said.

Rep. Tina Sablan took issue with the lack of review before the bills were passed. She pushed for the bills to be sent to committee for review, but her request was not heard.

The first bill re-appropriates over half a million dollars from the Kannat Tabla road and drainage project to various purposes. About \$200,000 will be used to compensate unnamed landowners in Kannat Tabla whose properties had been taken by government.

Another \$250,000 will be paid to Jose Camacho, a land compensation claimant who had won a civil suit against the government. The balance will be divided among the JROTC Army ball (\$8,000), the Oceania Championship Games (\$30,000), and the Saipan Fishermen's Association (\$10,000).

Further, the bill will re-appropriate \$65,000 of Saipan poker fees, with \$50,000 going to the Junior Statesman program and \$15,000 going to the

Saipan Little League.

The Saipan delegation, by a vote of 14-5, passed the bill on Monday. Those who voted against the bill are Sen. Maria T. Pangalinan and Reps. Stanley Torres, Joseph Reyes, Sablan, and Salas. Rep. Ray Yumul did not vote, and Rep. Rosemond Santos was absent.

The other bill seeks to take \$90,000 from utility projects to pay landowner Jose Camacho. This re-appropriation will bring to about \$340,000 the compensation to be paid to Camacho.

It passed by a 16-4 vote with Pangalinan, Reyes, Sablan, and Salas voting against the bill.

Sablan said the appropriations were "grossly irresponsible." She said the Department of Public Works was ready to proceed with the project, but with the money gone, it is unclear when the longstanding drainage problem in Kannat Tabla can be addressed.

There was comment on the floor that part of the money taken from the CUC projects was to be used as matching funds for federal grants. The Saipan delegation re-appropriated the money without documentation to support that the measure

would not jeopardize the projects.

That is why, Sablan said, it was important to have referred the bills to committee, where the implications could have been reviewed thoroughly.

For his part, Salas protested what he described as the "sly" manner that the Kannat Tabla re-appropriation was passed. House Local Bill 16-1 originally proposed to re-appropriate just \$38,000 of lapsed poker fees for school supplies. When it was found out that the \$38,000 had already been earmarked for some other program, a substitute version was introduced on the floor. The substitute bill contained the Kannat Tabla re-appropriation.

"What started as a \$38,000 re-appropriation for the schools turned into a bill re-appropriating over a half million dollars," Salas said.

He also noted that the money for the drainage and road repair at Kannat Tabla was already insufficient, and his fellow representative from Precinct 5, Rep. Rosemond Santos, had been working to come up with additional money and get the \$1.4-million project underway.

Marriage Encounter event tonight

The CNMI Chapter of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter said that Fr. Isaac Ayuyu will be hosting a Spiritual Enrichment today, April 24, 2008 from 6pm to 10:30pm at the Saipan Grand Hotel's Seaside Hall for all encountered couples. Please bring a snack to share.

In addition, all encountered couples are encouraged to attend the Greet-In on Friday, April 25, 2008 and the Greet-Off on Sunday, April 27, 2008 at the Saipan Grand Hotel for the 25 new couples registered for this ME Weekend. (PR)

by most Americans: They want the convenience of e-mail for non-urgent medical issues, but fewer than a third of U.S. doctors use e-mail to communicate with patients, according to recent physician surveys.

"People are able to file their taxes online, buy and sell household goods, and manage their financial accounts," said Susannah Fox of the Pew Internet & American Life Project. "The health care industry seems to be lagging behind other industries."

Doctors have their reasons for not hitting the reply button more often. Some worry it will increase their workload, and most physicians don't get reimbursed for it by insurance companies.

"federalization" occurs. She said the bill would stabilize the CNMI labor force in the meantime.

Even if the federalization bill is signed into law, the U.S. government will not immediately remove local labor and immigration controls. In the year following enactment of federalization, implementing regulations will be promulgated. Meantime, CNMI labor and immigration laws will still apply.

Sablan said that at-will employment for foreign workers has many other benefits. It will relieve the administrative, processing and enforcement burdens on the Department of Labor, and stabilize a segment of the labor force that is critical to the CNMI's economic recovery.

Local business will not be required to pay annual permit and processing fees and await the issuance of entry permits, or comply with extensive regulatory burdens. Workers will benefit as they can freely change jobs if their employment arrangements are unsatisfactory.

Further, resident foreign national status will promote a higher wage structure, improved working environments, and increased productivity for both citizen and non-citizen workers in the Commonwealth, said Sablan.

GAS

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government will be required to waive the fuel tax for two days each month if the price of retail fuel at the pump is over \$4 per gallon.

The gas tax holidays will be observed for a 24-hour period on the second and third Friday of each month.

The liquid fuel tax amounts to 15 cents a gallon.

In an interview, Yumul said the gas tax holiday will benefit consumers without hurting the oil firms. The only disadvantage will be to the cash-

strapped government, which will lose about \$160,000 of revenue from the measure.

The bill also authorizes the CNMI government to reduce or waive the fuel tax imposed on airlines and commercial vessels.

Currently, the retail prices for a gallon of fuel sold on Saipan are \$4.32 for regular unleaded gasoline, \$4.51 for premium unleaded gasoline, and \$4.77 for diesel.

On Rota, the retail prices for a gallon of fuel are \$4.99 for regular unleaded gasoline and \$5.55 for diesel.

On Tinian, a gallon of fuel is sold at \$4.83 for regular unleaded gasoline and \$5.09 for diesel.

found the jewelry made of shells.

"As Sepeti continued excavating, he found in the middle of these two rows an upturned pot," says USP's School of Geography's Professor Patrick Nunn. "It was filled with shell jewellery. Nine shell rings of different sizes, four shell bracelets, six straight units with drill-holes." Another researcher also found a pot.

LAPITA

From Page 3

Fiji, Tonga and Samoa.

The descendants of the Lapita people, who disappeared as a distinct cultural group around 550 BC, live in these countries today.

Fiji Museum's Sepeti Matararaba

3 join as major sponsors of 2008 MMAC

The 2008 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee welcomed the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, Pacific Trading Co. and Staywell Insurance as major sponsors for the 2008 MMAC.

HANMI has traditionally sponsored the Survivor Dinner held at the MMAC event and will continue this year as a major sponsor. The MMAC Committee is inviting all cancer survivors to attend the dinner banquet on May 16, 2008, at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao. Survivors are urged to contact Nora Sablan at 235-0998 or via email at norasablan@gmail.com to confirm attendance.

Pacific Trading Co. and Staywell have also confirmed their status as major sponsors for the 2008 MMAC. Major sponsorship status is conferred upon businesses who have donated between \$1,000 and \$2,999 in monetary or material goods. Title sponsorship status is conferred upon businesses who have donated \$3,000 or more in monetary or material goods.

The 2008 Marianas March Against Cancer Title Sponsors are Duty Free Shoppers, PTI, Joeten Charitable Foundation, Northwest Airlines, Bank of Guam, Sorensen Media Saipan, Power 99 and 97.9 The KAT.

MMAC major sponsors include Shell Marianas, Younis Arts Studio, Saipan Mayor's Office, Angil Design, HANMI, Pacific Trading Co. and Staywell Insurance.

Meanwhile, the MMAC's Team Bodig will be doing a Coin Drive Fundraising Event on April 25, May 2 and May 9, from 3pm to 6pm, at the Microl Toyota intersection in San Jose.

The 2008 Marianas March Against Cancer Committee and Team Bodig are inviting the public to help support their efforts in raising critically needed funds in the fight against cancer. The community is urged to drive by and donate whatever they can so the battle against cancer gets all the support needed. All funds raised go toward the fight against cancer.

The 2008 MMAC Committee members include David Rosario, Jack Sablan, Reina Camacho, Augusta Ogo, Nora Sablan, Kim A. Concepcion, Francella O. Iginoef, Frankie Eliptico, Michelle Kramer, Joyce Song-song, Joanne Ogo, Celia Mercado, Carlene Reyes-Tenorio, Mildred Sablan, Omdi Marino, Jeannie Mafnas, John Quitugua, John Tagabuel, Catherine Attao and Chris A. Concepcion. Advisers include Dr. Jack Hardy and Kim Prinz.

For more information, contact any of the MMAC Committee members or email Chris A. Concepcion at chrisa.concepcion@gmail.com or Catherine Attao at attao2@yahoo.com. (MMAC)

Rota charter passengers to stay an average of 8 days

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Passengers arriving on three charter flights to Rota during Japan's Golden Week will stay on the island an average of

eight days, according to Pacific Development Inc. president Yochi Matsumura.

Matsumura, whose company is operating the charters brought in by Continental Airlines, said that tourists aboard the inaugu-

ral flight on April 27 will stay on the islands for seven days—three nights and four days.

Meanwhile, the charters that will arrive at the CNMI's southernmost chain on April 30 and May 4 will spend nine

days on Rota—four nights and five days.

He said that since the three flights are fully booked, he expects the 465 visitors from Japan to visit Rota's historical sites as well as the bird sanctuary and take part in snorkeling tours.

"The main target of our visitors is to see the nature of Rota that is not available in Japan," said Matsumura.

In addition, the PDI official said that Rota Mayor Joseph S. Inos is planning to hold a "street market" in Songsong Village similar to Saipan's Thursday event at the Paseo de Marianas to facilitate local cultural exchange and experience for the visitors.

Inos is also expected to head the welcome activities at the Rota International Airport tarmac for all three charter flights.

Matsumura, for his part, said that he will fly to Rota during the weekend along with his staff that includes general managers Masanori Takahashi and Gordon Marciano, assistant general managers Takeshi Okawa (for group and package division) and Maho Miyakoshi (for customer service division).

KNT Kinki Nippon Tourist, PDI's parent company, announced in February that it will bring in 40 new charter flights to Rota in the next couple of years.

The Rota charter flight are expected to bring in some 8,000 tourists to Rota in about a year. KNT has chartered Continental Airlines to bring in the new Rota flights. Continental Airlines is planning to use its 155-seater Boeing 737 aircraft to service the island.

San Nicolas: Castillo must depart CNMI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor has ruled that Roger S. Castillo, an alien worker who was recently convicted of stalking his former common-law wife, must leave the CNMI.

Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas affirmed the decision of the Labor administrative hearing officer that denied Castillo's request to transfer to a new employer.

San Nicolas ordered Castillo to leave CNMI within 15 days after his last employer of record delivers to Labor his repatriation ticket.

"The evidence cited by the hearing officer is sufficient and the legal grounds on which the order is based are proper," said San Nicolas in his order.

The Labor Secretary found Castillo's arguments frivolous.

In January 2006, Castillo filed a Labor case against his former employers, Rosalia Skey and Emalyn Santiago, claiming unpaid wages and requesting transfer relief.

Castillo worked from 2001 to 2004 for Santiago, with whom he had a long-time domestic re-

lationship. In October 2004, the worker was arrested for assault and battery and was in detention for 14 months.

While the Labor case was pending, Castillo filed in July 2006 an application with the Labor director for approval of a one-year contract as a farmer for Ralph Demapan.

In October 2006, the Labor director denied Demapan's application to hire Castillo. Castillo and Demapan appealed the director's decision.

At the May 22, 2007, denial hearing presided by Labor administrative hearing officer Herbert D. Soll, only Demapan appeared.

That same day, Soll affirmed the Labor director's decision denying Demapan's employment application for Castillo.

Soll said that Demapan, after learning of the complications faced by the employee, decided to withdraw his application.

In June 2007, Castillo, through counsel Mark B. Hanson, appealed.

In the appeal, Hanson cited that Castillo has never been convicted of a felony, as opposed to the Labor director's

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27TH FLAME TREE ARTS FESTIVAL

Food, arts and fun as festival opens today

The Flame Tree Arts Festival kicks off a four-day celebration today, April 24, at 6pm at Civic Center in Susupe. Opening ceremonies will be held at 6pm, followed by a full line-up of entertainment until 10pm.

"The next four days are going to be packed with activity," said Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture executive director Cecilia Taitano-Celes. "Everyone is invited to come and join the fun."

This year's celebration includes over 50 art booths, 20 food vendors, and non-stop live performances. Another addition to this year's festival will be Arts in Education Workshops on skills including traditional medicine making, Carolinian téér (woven skirts) making, pandanas weaving, da'ok oil extraction, mwar making, bead making, Chamorro galaide (ca-

noe) model making, and more. A Carolinian trolling canoe will also be constructed during the festival, and cultural games will be held on the weekend.

"It is these knowledge and skills that we must continue to embrace and preserve for our children, for tomorrow and for many generations to enjoy," said Festival Committee chair Ramona T. Rebuenog.

Thursday night's entertainment line-up at the opening ceremony includes Southern Cross Warriors (6:30pm), Inatua Cultural Dancers (7pm), Lo'ngo'wo'fisch Dancers (7:30pm), Palau Kids (8pm), Rota (8:30pm), Guam (9pm), Talabwogh Men Stick Dancers (9:30pm), and Ed Kaipat (10pm).

Raffle tickets will also be sold for \$1 each to win a round-trip ticket to anywhere in Asia where Northwest flies.

This year's major sponsors are DFS Galleria, PTI, Bank of Guam, Northwest Airlines, and Palms Resort. Additional sponsors include Marianas Visitors Authority, Marpac, and Cococola. Celes-Taitano also credits the Department of Public Works, the divisions of Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, and numerous other public and private agencies for making this year's festival possible.

The Flame Tree Arts Festival is Micronesia's largest annual arts and culture celebration, featuring traditional and contemporary visual, performing and culinary arts from the region and beyond. Visit the official Flame Tree Arts Festival website at <http://flametreearts-festival.googlepages.com> for a complete entertainment schedule, list of vendors, and other information. (PR)



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

CHARITABLE GROUP

Mariana Blue Co., Ltd. Japan president Yuka Kitamura teaches kindergarten students to create a "Japanese origami yoyo" during Monday's special presentation at William S. Reyes Elementary School. Japan's rising singer and composer Tetsuya Rikiyama also provided musical entertainment for the students and teachers. The nonprofit charitable group started in December 2006 provides free entertainment for children and handicapped people.

Open forum set on possible status for long-term aliens

The LTR Status Working Group reminds the public and invites everyone to the Community Discussion Forum at Koblerville Community Center at 6pm, Thursday, April 24, 2008.

The topic is "What are your views on a possible longer-term residence status for qualified foreign workers?" Issues for discussion include who would qualify, relationship to federalization, economic benefits of the granting such a status, conditions, requirements to qualify, and benefits and

burdens of the status.

This is the Community Discussion Forum originally scheduled for last week but postponed due to CUC's load shedding schedule. This forum is especially for the benefit of residents in the villages of San Antonio, Koblerville, Chalan Piao, Chalan Kanoa, Susupe, and Oleai, but is open to all.

Anticipated speakers include Dekada Movement counsel Stephen C. Woodruff; Maya Kara (president of the CNMI Bar Association, former acting Atto-

ney General, former governor's legal counsel, former lieutenant governor's legal counsel, and former House legal counsel); and Rep. Tina Sablan.

Kara emphasizes that she is involved and will speak only for herself, in her personal capacity, and not as a representative of the government, any clients, or any special interest group.

Other speakers may be added, and there will be extensive opportunity for questions, answers, and general discussion. (PR)

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INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW08-IFB-015

Supply, Delivery and Installation of Collateral Equipment for the Rota Health Center (Medical-Non-Medical & Dental)

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the **Supply, Delivery and Installation of Collateral Equipments for Rota Health Center**, Rota Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after April 17, 2008 at Quick Print and Post, Chalan Pale Arnold, Saipan. A non-refundable payment to Quick Print and Post, in the amount to be determined, is required for each set. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal Law granting the funding for this project.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on May 7, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. local time at the Rota Mayor's Office Conference Room, Rota. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on May 21, 2008 to Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director, Technical Services Division, DPW Oleai Commercial Center or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW08-IFB-015". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time May 27, 2008. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time May 27, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 27, 2008, and must be received no later than June 5, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, June 10, 2008. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on May 30, 2008.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

This project is funded derived from CNMI Public Law 12-64 § 5(a), and Rota Legislative Delegation Resolution (RLDR) 15-12, D1 FY 2001.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred and Eighty (180) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred and fifty dollars (US \$150.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Acting, Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
Director of Procurement and Supply

Flame Tree Arts Festival

April 24th & 25th (5:00pm to 9:00pm) • April 26th (9:00am to 7:00pm) • April 27th (12:00pm to 4:00pm)



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3 graduate from casino dealer school

Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino concluded its most recent casino dealer training school on Friday, with three individuals making up the graduating class.

"We have been training dealers for the past 10 years and despite publicizing our training school, we've received little to no interest from the local community," said Casino general manager Ken Barberis. "Until now we've only had one local staff member working on the gaming floor, Hilbert San Nicolas, who has progressed from dealer to dealer-inspector and is now a Gaming Supervisor."

"It was with his assistance that we were able to attract the interest of our most recent graduates: Annadez Borja, Connie Cepeda and Ringo Reyes. We hope that this trend continues," added Barberis. "The message that we're trying to get out there is that people can develop a rewarding career path within the globally



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Training coordinator Djoanna Gomez, left, poses with, from second left to right, Connie Cepeda, Annadez Borja and Ringo Reyes after graduating from Tinian Dynasty's Dealer School.

growing casino industry."

The career path for a dealer can lead to casino general manager and beyond. Barberis stated that he started as a dealer 32 years ago but confesses to being a slow learner!

Barberis makes the point that had there been more continued local involvement from Tinian Dynasty's beginning 10 years ago, he might not have been assured of the renewal of his last annual contract!

For further information regarding future casino dealer training schools, contact Casino Training coordinator Djoanna Gomez on 328-2233 Ext. 2813 Monday to Friday, from 8am to 3pm. (TDHC)

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

APRIL 24, 2000

U.S. auditors to probe Saipan seaport scandal

Federal auditors are expected to begin a thorough investigation into the financial controversy surrounding the dredging and construction of the \$43 million Saipan harbor which was completed April last year after almost six years since the project started. Ports Authority Board Chair Roman S. Palacios made the audit request to the Office of the Inspector General of the interior department following a recommendation by the Governor's Transition Committee because of the increase in the project's scope and cost.

CUC wants gov't to settle unpaid utility bills

Unable to collect payment from the government during the past few months, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation has demanded at least \$1.5 million each month to partly settle its huge debt representing unpaid utility bills since last year. The government-owned utility firm has been in talks with the Department of Finance for the last two weeks to try to negotiate a payment schedule to reduce arrears amounting to over \$11 million, according to CUC Board Chair Jesus T. Guerrero.

AGO wants public defender sanctioned

The Attorney General's Office wants the Superior Court to sanction Assistant Public Defender Wesley Bogdan for alleged misrepresentation in seeking medical records of a sexual abuse victim which he planned to use in a case to defend his client. Mr. Bogdan is representing Irvin Dela Cruz Songao, who has been charged with three counts of sexual abuse of a child identified only as A.N. in June 1998. The conflict stemmed from the motion of Mr. Bogdan seeking a review of the victim's medical record or mental evaluation to find out if A.N. was competent to testify in the case.

APRIL 24, 2001

Garment firm seeks to collect over \$56K

A Saipan garment manufacturing company has filed a civil court complaint against a security services agency for breach of contract and unjust enrichment in connection with the latter's alleged failure to pay proper wages to its employees. Locally-based firm KGC International doing business as Villagomez Security Services allegedly failed to pay 14 of its employed security guards the proper overtime payments required under the CNMI and US minimum wage and overtime laws, according to plaintiff Hansae (Saipan) Inc.

Got 'fraudulent' mail?

The Attorney General's Office yesterday warned Northern Marianas residents against fraudulent telephone and mail sweepstakes promotions. Consumer counsel David Lochabay said AGO has been receiving reports of CNMI residents who have fallen prey to these fake trade promotions. These illegal activities come in many forms but Mr. Lochabay said some unsolicited material typically arrives by mail, informing the recipients they have won a prize which generally involves a large amount of money.

Teno OKs funding for new Garapan kohan

A temporary kohan in the Garapan district is soon to rise with the recent passage of a bill appropriating some \$105,000 for the safety enforcement project. The new law signed by Governor Pedro P. Tenorio last week also earmarks funds for the pavement and construction of a parking lot and restrooms at Obyan Beach.

APRIL 24, 2002

DOLI to relax ATB regs US visa holders may be exempt

Foreign nationals who have U.S. visas need not secure an Authorization to Board letter from the Department of Labor and Immigration to come into the Commonwealth once an amendment to the ATB regulations is finally adopted. The proposed amendment also incorporates other provisions that would relax the strict requirement to secure an ATB.

AGO: Budget cuts have to apply to all

The long and short of it is that, yes, the Governor has the authority to cut the budgetary allotments of other branches of government. However, such cuts have to be proportionately applied to all branches, departments and agencies. Thus ruled the Attorney General's Office yesterday on the question whether the Governor has the constitutional authority to cut the third and fourth quarter allotments of the Executive, Legislature, Judiciary, and all other governmental agencies.

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Opinion

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AP The Associated Press

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EDITORIAL

The pope's message

Almost three decades ago, a new pope still in his 50s captivated Americans during a triumphant tour that took him to Washington, New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago and Des Moines. Last week, America was visited by a different sort of pope—a soft-spoken octogenarian—with a less ambitious itinerary. But, like John Paul II's 1979 tour, Benedict XVI's visit to New York and Washington was a success beyond the opportunity it afforded the bishop of Rome to pray with the faithful.

The pope deserves credit both for what he said and for what he didn't say. He repeatedly apologized for the widespread sexual abuse of young people by some Catholic clergy and the fact that the scandal was "sometimes very badly handled," an oblique reference to bishops who shuffled predatory priests from one parish to another. He amplified that apology by meeting with a small group of victims from Boston, the epicenter of the scandal. Finally, unlike some conservatives, he refused to scapegoat gays, telling reporters: "I would not speak in this moment about homosexuality, but pedophilia, (which) is another thing."

It was what the pope didn't say that made news when he addressed Catholic educators at Catholic University in Washington. As predicted, Benedict stressed the importance of such institutions retaining their Catholic identity. But he disappointed conservatives who had hoped that he would read the riot act to colleges that welcome pro-choice politicians or allow the staging of "The Vagina Monologues." Instead of descending to petty polemics, the pope eloquently insisted that "God's desire to make himself known, and the innate desire of all human beings to know the truth, provide the context for human inquiry into the meaning of life."

The pope's visit also included interfaith encounters—such as a visit to a synagogue—as well as a poignant pilgrimage to ground zero in New York and an address to the U.N. General Assembly. In that speech, Benedict pleased supporters of the world organization (and perhaps irked the Bush administration) by endorsing Pope John Paul II's call for a "greater degree of international ordering," or common rules. He also suggested that the U.N. encourage not only discourse among nations but "inter-religious dialogue." At a time when too many terrorists see themselves as waging "holy war," it is an idea that other religious leaders should embrace.

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Strategy

"We have been endowed with the capacity and the power to create desirable pictures within and to find them automatically printed in the outer world of our environment." —John McDonald

One of the interesting aspects of strategy is the infinite number of possibilities available to best position your business, or even your career. Even in our current economic situation, it is possible to find a few businesses that are profitable and continue to grow. The difference in almost every case is that the businesses that continue to grow have a strategy for success. Those without a clearly defined strategy are at the mercy of the economy.

Strategy is one of those terms that people use, but are hard pressed to give a definition. Often, the terms strategy and plan are used synonymously, or conjoined as in strategic planning. Planning is a formalized procedure to predetermine the activities and events needed to produce a result. It is the process by which one attempts to control future events in order to create a desired status for their organization.

Strategy is the clearly understood intent to realize a specific outcome in a complex environment. Strategy pursues a vision. Once understood and articulated, strategy provides the direction and integrated decisions to systematically advance the organization toward the future vision and make it an eventual reality.

Strategy answers the question: "What needs to happen?"

Planning answers: "How will it happen?"

The first step toward crafting a better strategy is to identify your current business strategy. This is important because it allows you to understand your current situation and what needs to happen to create the best future position for our organization. In some cases, it may be better to cut your losses, and one of the best analytic tools you can use to know whether to build on your current business model or start anew is called "zero-based thinking."

This type of thinking takes you back to zero so that some penetrating questions can be asked to determine the viability of your products, services, or business concepts; the dependability of your people, vendors, or lenders; or the practicality of your equipment, processes, or resources.

Ask: "Knowing what I know now, would I start this business up again if I were going to start over?" "What would I do different?" What people or suppliers would I keep on board, and whom would I let go?" "What processes add value to our customers' lives, and which ones detract from it?"

Zero-based thinking even examines your customer base to ask: "Are there any customers I am serving today, knowing what I know

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGRAS

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at rikv@bizresults.org.



now, that I would not take on in the future?"

The importance of ongoing strategy formulation and planning revision can be illustrated with this story. The Nobel prize-winning physicist Albert Einstein was teaching at Princeton University in 1951, and he had just given an exam to his advanced class in physics. Einstein's teaching assistant was carrying the tests while he walked back to the office. The assistant curiously asked, "Dr. Einstein, wasn't that exam you gave to this class of physics students the same exam you gave to the same class last year?"

Einstein thought about it and replied, "Yes, it is the same exam."

"But, Dr. Einstein, how could you give the same exam to the same class two years in a row?"

Einstein's response was classic. "Well, the answers have changed."

The point of the story is that the strategy and plan you developed last year may have been right on when you created it, but rapid developments and changes in a complex environment may create different consequences from what you envisioned last year.

According to the American Management Association, 70 percent of your decisions in business will turn out to be wrong over a period of time. They may have made sense when you made the decisions based on the existing situation, but over time the answers changed because the business situation has changed dramatically. Zero-based thinking can help you come up with better answers to fine-tune your strategy and develop a better plan of action.

Do you have an updated strategy and plan that you use as an integral tool to better position your organization? Do your people know the strategy and understand how their position directly contributes toward following the plan and accomplishing the goals? On May 1 we will facilitate a brainstorming session to find solutions to the challenges in the CNMI's dynamic environment. You'll learn how to create a powerful strategy and plan to improve your profitability. It is available to any interested business owner at no charge. To reserve a seat, e-mail us at rikv@bizresults.org.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

End of your retirement pension, Fund's defined benefit plan

It could be sooner than you think

Conclusion

Editor's Note: The following is the conclusion of a two-part series. The first part was published in yesterday's edition, April 23, 2008. Access it at the Archives Section of www.saipantribune.com.

Continuing with yesterday article and for those Retirement Fund members who might be interested, I want to share with you some indication of how to measure the period of time you might have if you were to outlive your pension. Google "Social Security Life Tables." Then select "Male" or "Female" whichever the case may be. Match your age listed in the first column with the corresponding "years remaining" in the column depicting the life expectancy of that particular age. The data presented is valid for the year 2004*, but it can be used to make a point for this year (or you can back track your present age by four years to 2004). For example, in 2004, a male 50 years of age would have on average 28.46 years of life remaining or to age 78.46 years or to the year 2032. A female of the same age in 2004 would have 32.25 years remaining. In every population throughout the world over, females generally live longer than males—God made it that way. The tables will show this.

Then estimate how many years you could spend without a pension after the expiration of eight years of retirement payments after which the Fund may be exhausted. Or, if you prefer, select one of the several other periods that Buck Consultants will present at the briefing. Personally, I think eight years is a realistic term before the death of your defined benefit plan. Do you consider my opinion to be that of an alarmist? You should.

It's really very simple—you will not be able to receive your pension if the Fund has no money and if you think the central government or the U.S. will step in and pay your pension, I have a lot of stuff rusting out back in the weeds to sell you at a good price.

Certainly no one knows what the future will hold, not with respect to the life of the Retirement Fund or the duration of your own life based on these actuarial statistics. You could reach the age shown on the data table and live beyond to the "Second Coming." Or you could get hit by an empty tour bus or succumb before your time to the ravenous vultures of the air. So if you think you are nearing your age number on the life expectancy tables, don't sell the farm

and give the dog away. The information is simply a benchmark and only potentially indicative of all the others your age who have lived a normal life free of fatal accidents and debilitating injuries. If you are a smoker then that could reduce your remaining years also.

• • •

The Fund's lawsuit

Still another matter for those interested in the future of the Fund concerns the delay in following up on the lawsuit the Fund brought against the central government more than six months ago (Civil Action No. 06-00367).

The Fund listed no less than 10 causes of actions against the NMI's central government. I understand that resolution of the issue was postponed and still remains unresolved. Why is that? What happened to the canon of a swift trial?

All retirees and active members must realize that the longer the court delays in rendering a judgment in this vital matter the more money the members stand to lose by failure to collect from the government what is due the Fund and thus the members—and I mean the loss of millions of dollars which could be invested in interest bearing securities. What possible reason could justify such a lengthy delay in resolving this vital issue. What could possibly be gained by such a protracted suspension?

As a former Fund administrator pointed out in an article several years ago (Dec. 7, 2004), Fund records indicated the highest pension released was \$150,000 a year to a retiree who is a former member of the judiciary. That amount of money is equal to paying six retirees annual pensions of \$25,000 each. With judges making that kind of money if they so chose they could establish their own retirement program independent of the NMI's retirement program, which is a train wreck waiting to happen anyway.

As the author and researcher of more than 45 "op-ed" retirement pieces published intermittently over the past seven years starting in 2000, I wrote the essays to alert members of the dire consequences certain to occur as a result of the central government's failure to meet its financial obligation to contributing members. I sent unsolicited copies of my independent analyses to one of the Superior Court judges hoping to provide the court a measure of economic background concerning several issues of concern to retirees as viewed—not only as one of their own—but also from the perspective of an economist. Having been previously qualified on several other occasions by more than one judge as an expert witness on economic matters, I thought at

By WILLIAM H. STEWART

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

William H. Stewart is a forensic economist, historian, and military cartographer.



least a portion of the report contents might be of assistance to the court. Turns out they were apparently unappreciated and probably construed as being biased.

While I was not present at court at the time of the initial presentation by the plaintiff (the Fund), I was told by an individual who was in attendance that the presiding judge threw my analyses in the trash bin, only to recover it later with the remark that, "If anyone wanted to read it, it would be available at the court for that purpose." Upon learning this I was quite pleased that my report didn't wind up in the restroom for an alternate use—at least I hope not. So much for my good intentions. At least the courtesy of a thank you note would have been appreciated.

So, for those interested in the point of view of an economist regarding the future of the Fund, either check with the court or go to the Tribune's website search bar at the top of their page and type in "William Stewart Retirement Fund" where you can read several articles posted there and decide for yourself if they have any merit.

Meanwhile, write the time and date of 10:30am, Friday, April 25, on the wall to remind yourself to attend the briefing at the Legislature and hope they don't change the date and fail to announce the change.

***Note:** Statistical information is not yet available for the year 2008, but the data, which are available, are close enough for useful approximation. So if you are interested, consult the Social Security Life Tables, find your age and the corresponding years remaining of life expectancy opposite your age. Then determine how old you will be in eight years time or by the year 2016. The remaining years will be the number of years you may have to live without your retirement pension if the central government continues to fail to meet its employer contributions to the defined benefit plan and other payments to the Fund.

Letters to the Editor

An open letter to the Department of Finance – Revenue and Taxation

I am writing this letter to inquire with the Department of Finance regarding the filing of Territorial Individual Income Tax Return for the year 2007. My husband and I have been working in the CNMI for 14 years now as contract workers. Since 1993, we have been using either Form 1040EZ, 1040A or 1040 and we didn't encounter any problem. We received our tax refunds and the "additional child tax credit" for all the tax returns that we filed.

When we filed our tax return for the year 2007, however, Revenue and Taxation of Rota told us that we can no longer use Form 1040A and that we should use Form 1040NR because we are nonresident aliens. I am not aware of any change on the taxation system this year that could alter our filing

status. Anyway, if the requirement of the Revenue and Taxation for the nonresident aliens is to use the Form 1040NR, then we will adhere to this.

However, when I was reading the instruction booklet that they gave us for Form 1040NR (for nonresident aliens) from the IRS, I came across an interesting topic on page 2, titled RESIDENT ALIEN OR NONRESIDENT ALIEN. The instruction stated that:

"If you are not a citizen of the United States, specific rules apply to determine if you are a resident alien or a nonresident alien for tax purposes. Generally, you are considered a resident alien if you meet either the green card test or the substantial presence test for 2007."

The SUBSTANTIAL PRESENCE TEST states:

"You are considered a U.S. resident

if you meet the substantial presence test for 2007. You meet this test if you were physically present in the United States for at least:

1. 31 days during 2007, and
2. 183 days during the period 2007, 2006 and 2005, counting all the days of physical presence in 2007, but only 1/3 the number of days presence in 2006 and only 1/6 the number of days in 2005.

"You can be treated as a nonresident alien if you were present in the United States for fewer than 183 days during 2007."

With this information, I am now confused why Revenue and Taxation is requiring us to use this form. We passed the substantial presence test so we can be classified as resident alien. Yes, we are nonresident aliens as per

our immigration status but we are resident aliens for tax purposes. I asked for the legal opinion of a respectable lawyer specializing in taxation. According to her, she called Revenue and Taxation on Saipan and was told that we don't have to use Form 1040NR if we were here in the CNMI for more than 183 days during 2007.

I called Revenue and Taxation – Rota again but their position is still the same; that is, to follow Revenue and Taxation-Saipan's direction to use FORM 1040NR for nonresident workers.

I know that I am not as knowledgeable as the people working for Revenue and Taxation so please correct me if my analysis and interpretation is wrong. I have been trying to call Revenue and Taxation – Saipan for the past week but I was not able to get

any clarification on this matter. We really need to be enlightened on this. We want to know what is the regulation so that we would know what to do. I also learned from the IRS publication that if you file using Form 1040NR, you are not qualified to receive the economic stimulus payment. Is this the reason why we are being required to use this form? If we were not qualified to receive this economic stimulus payment, then don't give it to us. We are not asking for anything that we don't deserve, but please give us what is rightfully ours. We are taxpayers, too!

Thousands of nonresident workers desperately await your response and guidance.

Maria Nellasca
Songsong, Rota

CNMI as co-manager of proposed monument: How real is it?

I wish to thank my good friend Mr. Ken Kramer for his letter to the editor that was published in both the *Saipan Tribune* and *Marianas Variety* on April 17, 2008. He discussed what he thought the CNMI would be gaining should the Pew Monument be designated and the CNMI become a co-manager.

(1) "The MOA gives the state of Hawaii co-management over the waters from 0-50 miles. Before the MOA,

For your reading pleasure:

- Presidential Proclamation 8031 can be downloaded from: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/06/print/20060615-18.html>
- The NWHI Monument regulations can be downloaded from: (http://hawaiireef.noaa.gov/pdfs/nwhimn_finalregs.pdf)
- I was provided a copy of the NWHI Monument management MOA by the PEW lobbyist.

the state of Hawaii managed from 0-3 miles. The state gained an extra 47 miles with the co-management agreement." and

(2) "Under Pew's current proposal, the CNMI would gain co-management over the waters from 0-200 miles.... "We stand to gain 200 miles under a

co-management agreement."

His understanding of the extent of co-management responsibility that would be given to the CNMI is inaccurate. But, I don't fault Ken as he is just repeating information being circulated by our Pew-paid lobbyist. In his blog site (<http://jetapplicant.blogspot.com/>) our Pew lobbyist responded to a comment concerning the loss of local control once the Pew Monument is designated by stating: "It would not

be out of local hands were this to happen. Locals would gain more control." ("Mariana Trench announced on KSPN", dated 3 April 2008).

The above claims made by Pew and inadvertently by Mr. Kramer are not supported by fact and are misleading. Therefore, the focus of my third letter on why I oppose the Pew Monument will be to discuss the management regime that would likely be established

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Letters to the Editor

Common sense and CNMI options to win

"Are we fighting a battle or a war" is the first question we must ask on the issue of federalization. Clearly, some think it is a war with their plans for revisiting our political status.

But I'm sure the common sense people will agree it is only a battle because the war is really about finding prosperity for the CNMI. Some see federalization as an obstacle; to others it is the

ultimate solution and I'm one of those who believe it is the latter.

If history has taught us anything it has taught us that once the federal government makes

up its mind collectively in Congress with the support of the Executive Branch, there are no powers on earth that can stop them, especially with the military buildup in Guam and

the fact that we are at war with terrorists. This is a federal government that has taken down nations and dictators, yet we are talking about fighting these forces. At the same time we are begging for special economic considerations. Common sense tells me we can only do one or the other: fight or beg. The sad joke is we don't have anything

to fight with. We are also destroying the little amount of political real estate we did have in Washington over a fight we can never win.

Common sense tells me our best and only option has always been to document with facts the possible impact of federalization and place the burden of

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CNMI

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for the Pew Monument and the CNMI's role as co-manager. Though the subject matter is a bit tedious, it is important for the people of the CNMI to understand the repercussions of having a National Monument encompassing over a third of our exclusive economic zone.

REASON 3:

The co-manager's position that the CNMI would hold should the Pew Monument be designated is more of an empty title with no serious decision making powers *except* over lands the CNMI already have control over (i.e., the islands of Uracus, Maug, and Asuncion).

There will be a significant decrease in management responsibility and involvement for the CNMI in over 115,000 square miles of federal waters and submerged lands should the Pew Monument be designated. The decrease would be associated with the change in management authority from the sustainable approach presently practiced by the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fishery Service, to a strictly "no take" approach by NOS/National Marine Sanctuary Program.

Despite Pew's claim, there will be no increase in primary management responsibilities granted to the CNMI over federal waters and submerged lands should the Pew Monument be designated. The following discussion (*simplified*) explains how the management responsibilities for the NWHI Monument were delineated when the Monument was initially designated; prior to State involvement. Presidential Proclamation 8031 makes it crystal clear who has primary management responsibility for marine waters: "The Secretary of Commerce, through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), has primary responsibility regarding the management of the ma-

rine areas of the Monument, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior." This statement is repeated on page 51134 in the NWHI Regulations (FR Vol. 71, No. 167) and again in Section 1C in the NWHI Monument MOA (correctly titled "Memorandum of Agreement Among the State of Hawaii - Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the U.S. Department of Interior - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Department of Commerce - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, for Promoting Coordinated Management of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument").

When the State of Hawaii joined the federal government and offered to include various state owned land and waters in the Monument, a MOA was developed that identified and delineated primary management responsibilities between the three co-managers of the NWHI Monument; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of the Interior and the State of Hawaii.

With respect to the extent of State jurisdictional authority over water resources, the Monument management MOA reads on page 2: "The State of Hawai'i has primary responsibility for managing the State waters of the Monument." This same statement is repeated on

page 51134 in the NWHI Monument regulations (FR Vol. 71, No. 167).

For State land resources, primary management responsibility is explained on page 2 in the NWHI Monument MOA: "The State of Hawaii through the Department of Land and Natural Resources has primary responsibility for the Kure Atoll portion of the Hawai'i State Seabird Sanctuary." As a note, these were lands under state control prior to the NWHI Monument designation

The jurisdictional limitations of state responsibilities as a co-manager for the NWHI Monument is initially disclosed in the Presidential Proclamation: "Nothing in this proclamation shall be deemed to diminish or enlarge the jurisdiction of the State of Hawaii". This limitation of state authority is repeated in the NWHI Monument regulations (FR Vol. 71, No. 167; page 51134) and even in the NWHI Monument MOA (page 2).

In summary, there is no language in any of the legal documents used to establish the NWHI Monument that gives any additional jurisdictional powers to the State of Hawaii.

In contrast to various claims made by Pew Monument proponents, the State of Hawaii did not gain management responsibilities over EEZ waters over and above what they already controlled as State waters. In

fact, the State actually lost control of state waters through the designation of the NWHI Monument (explained later).

With respect to the proposed Pew Monument, the same situation exists but in a much simpler form. Two governmental entities (federal and CNMI governments) would collectively create a large jointly managed conservation area that covers 1/3 of the CNMI - EEZ. An MOA would be developed and signed by both parties in order to identify and delineate primary management responsibilities.

The co-management system most likely to be adopted for the Pew Monument follows:

(1) Primary management responsibility for the islands of Uracus (1 square mile), Maug (0.8 square mile), and Asuncion (2.8 square miles) down to the shoreline will be retained by the CNMI government. These islands are already designated as conservation areas by the CNMI Constitution and have a total area of approximately 4.6 miles².

(2) Primary management responsibility for the 0 to 200 mile EEZ will be retained by the federal government (NOAA). Federal ownership over submerged lands would be re-affirmed through the Presidential Proclamation (via the Antiquities Act of 1906) that would establish the National Monument.

As with the Hawaii example,

there will be no additional management responsibility given to the CNMI over the federally owned waters and submerged lands. This issue was made quite clear in the NWHI Monument and it will be made very clear in the Pew Monument, should it be designated.

For those of us who believe in the sustainable use of natural resources, this Monument designation gets even worse. Even as a co-manager, the CNMI will not be able to modify management policies to include extractive uses as they would be bound to the strict objectives of the National Marine Sanctuary Program and the numerous prohibitions outlined in the Presidential Proclamation. Between the prohibition of all commercial, recreational and subsistence fishing activities, and all extractive uses on submerged lands, the CNMI will have little else to do but sit back and process paperwork, if any. It doesn't take a lot of effort to "manage" a conservation area when you basically prohibit all activities. Even with an important sounding title of co-manager, the CNMI will still have to dance to the music of the primary management authority—the federal government—when it comes to managing what used to be our EEZ.

John Gourley
Navy Hill, Saipan



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, THAT THE PUBLIC SCHOOL PERSONNEL SYSTEM SHALL BE APPLIED AND ADMINISTERED ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLES OF EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AS DEFINED BY THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC LAW 6 - 10, REGARDLESS OF AGE, RACE, SEX, RELIGION, POLITICAL AFFILIATION OR BELIEF, MARITAL STATUS, DISABILITY OR PLACE OF ORIGIN. APPLICANTS FOR THIS POSITION MUST BE A U.S. CITIZEN OR IS ELIGIBLE AND AUTHORIZED TO WORK IN THE U.S., INCLUDING THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

Announcement #	Position/Title	Pay Level /Step	Per Annum	Minimum Requirements	Closing Date	Location
PSS-063-2007	EDUCATION SPECIALIST I-IV (CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) & COUNSELING COORDINATOR) (Non-Certified Application) (In-House Promotional Opportunity)	31-35 / 01-12	\$23,706.21-\$49,266.21	Education Specialist I - Applicants with Bachelor's degree in Education or Education Administration, plus two (2) years work related experience in teaching, designing and implementing subject program and/or training of teachers and specialists. Education Specialist II - Applicants with Bachelor's degree in Education or Education Administration, plus fifteen (15) Graduate Semester Hours plus four (4) years work related experience in teaching, designing and implementing subject program and/or training of teachers and specialists OR Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Education or Education Administration, plus six (6) years work related experience in teaching, designing and implementing subject program and/or training of teachers and specialists. Education Specialist III - Applicants with Master's degree in Education or Education Administration, plus five (5) years work related experience in teaching, designing and implementing subject program and/or training of teachers and specialists OR Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Education or Education Administration, plus fifteen (15) Graduate Semester Hours plus seven (7) years work related experience in teaching, designing and implementing subject program and/or training of teachers and specialists. Education Specialist IV - Applicants with Master's degree in Education or Education Administration, plus six (6) years work related experience in teaching, designing and implementing subject program and/or training of teachers and specialists OR Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree in Education or Education Administration, plus fifteen (15) Graduate Semester Hours plus eight (8) years work related experience in teaching, designing and implementing subject program and/or training of teachers and specialists. Education Specialist V - Applicants with Master's degree in Education or Education Administration, plus six (6) years work related experience in teaching, designing and implementing subject program and/or training of teachers and specialists.	April 29, 2008	PSS Associate Commissioner of Education For Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment
PSS-2008-021	COMPUTER SPECIALIST III (Erate Network Program Support) (Non-Certified Application) (In-House Promotional Opportunity)	27, 29, 31 / 01-12	\$19,511.46-\$40,531.43	Computer Specialist I - Applicants with BA degree, plus two (2) years work related experience OR High School graduate, plus six (6) years work related experience. Computer Specialist II - Applicants with BA degree, plus three (3) years work related experience OR High School graduate, plus seven (7) years work related experience. Computer Specialist III - Applicants with BA degree, plus five (5) years work related experience OR AA degree, plus seven (7) years work related experience.	April 25, 2008	PSS Administration-Erate Network Program

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE, (2) TRANSCRIPTS, (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS), (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER, (5) RESUME, AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE). COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING, THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, AND TEL. #. (670) 237-3064, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT <http://www.pss.cnmim.pmp/humanresources> ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

Latest edition of MP magazine now available

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saijantribune.com
REPORTER

The March-April edition of one of the CNMI's most read magazines, *MP Magazine*, is now finally out after several weeks' delay brought on by the frequent unannounced power outages.

In an earlier email to MP readers and subscribers, member of the *MP Magazine* publishing team Ivan Propst said that "for those who haven't been able to sleep well due to anxiety over the lateness of the March-April issue of *MP*, you can rest more calmly now that this issue has gone to press and should be out in about a week, providing fuel shortages don't delay it longer."

He added that it was, "in fact, primarily the frequent unannounced power outages that caused the delay in putting this issue together."

The March-April issue of *MP Magazine* is now on sale at numerous locations on Saipan, Ti-

nian, and Rota.

The *MP* publishing team said they are especially excited about this issue as it brings local and stateside readers in-depth articles about two topics of major interest to the CNMI.

One feature article, *The Issue of Federalization*, was written by David Cohen soon after he left his position as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs this January. The article expresses his personal views on the move to federalize the CNMI's immigration system.

Another feature article, *A National Marine Park in the CNMI: Priceless*, was authored by local entrepreneur Laurie Peterka. This piece, accompanied by stunning photography, presents details about the proposal to set aside the northernmost region of the CNMI, an area of 115,000 square miles, as a marine national monument. As one of the largest such areas in the world, it would offer considerable op-

portunity to the CNMI on many fronts, not the least of which would be greater recognition with regard to marine research, environmental preservation, and ecotourism. This *MP* exclusive explains what such a marine preserve will mean for the CNMI's current and future generations.

The magazine is now being sold locally in several locations, including Joeten stores in Susupe and Garapan, Price-Costco, Java Joe's, Kagman Market, Tun Kiku's Market, Da Rock Steady Shop, Bestseller, NMC Bookstore, Tinian Ice and Water on Tinian, and As Paris Restaurant on Rota.

Inquiries about *MP* and its advertising rates can be made at the Titan Media Group office located on the first floor of the Cabrera Center on Beach Road or by calling Catherine Perry Anderson, *MP* sales director, at 235-4176. Subscription information is also provided at www.marianaspire.com.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PRTI-DARE/GUTS student body present a Certificate of Appreciation to Tarza Management and Staff for their support to ESFDB DARE/GUTS. Front row, from left, Crystal Calvo, ESFDB Student Body president Nicky Mateo, ESFDB DARE/GUTS president Mariah Barcina, Tarza general manager Rey Ibanez, Tarza safety supervisor Lelani Flores, Tarza mascot, ESFDB DARE/GUTS student role model Jonicia Taisacan and Jenny Dela Cruz. Back row, from left, Cheryl Reyes, PRTI Jr. NBA/WNBA player Angelique Perez, PRTI supervisor Edward Maratita, Jr., Tarza aquatic supervisor John Borja, Pauline Taisacan, and ESFDB Adviser Flor Chavez.

Rota students take part in Guam youth confab

As part of their school's drug and violence prevention efforts, Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja students, teachers, and one parent from Rota participated in the 18th Annual Youth For Youth Conference held April 18-20, 2008, in Guam.

The conference aimed to promote a drug-, alcohol-, and tobacco-free lifestyle among the youth. Conference participants shared their knowledge about the dangers of drugs and violence. A large group of participants performed an energetic dance to keep the conference alive.

The conference consisted of workshops and presentations facilitated by the young people

who made up most of the conference participants, with minimal assistance from the adult trainers and mentors.

The students of Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja acknowledged the Pacific Regional Training Institute drug prevention program, Women Helping People Foundation, CNMI Public School System board member Tanya King, Sgt. Maj. Herman Atalig, Barrigada Vice Mayor June Blas, the Guam Fire Department, Tarza Management and Staff, the Blas family, Bay Breeze Restaurant-Rota, and to the Rota Community who helped during students' fundraising drive. (*Sgt. Ford Ebegawa*)



EARTH DAY

A woman checks the flyers displayed during Tuesday's showing of Al Gore's global-warming documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*, in celebration of Earth Day and the National Park Week at the American Memorial Park Theater. The CNMI Organization for Conservation Outreach sponsored the event.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

COMMON

From Page 13

accountability on the federal government who can afford to offset the financial impact. If we retained control of immigration and the wage hike is put on hold, our government still can't guarantee any kind of economic stimulant or support for the people and businesses. So why even fight the hand that can help when we know our government can't deliver? It defies common sense.

In the words of the person who actually help write the first federalization bill, "We can implement the law in a way that will be beneficial to everyone or implemented in a way that is harmful." (David Cohen). The federal government has set aside millions to help us but how does it look when we are fighting against the hand that has fed us and continues to feed us. If the CNMI has honorable intentions then there is nothing wrong with obeying the federal law and being held accountable for the federal monies we get. The oversight process of Congress will also address any shortcoming the CNMI may

suffer. It should be obvious the best option for winning with the federalization issue is to follow their game plan because we don't have one and that's common knowledge.

Some people may not know this but federal law dictates that our state level government officials can't make any binding agreements with foreign governments or even take any gifts from a foreign government. Our officials can only make handshake deals in the spirit of cooperation. But federalization will pave the way to give us the option to create real binding treaties with other nations.

We can either figure out how to use federalization to our advantage or continue to fight a hopeless battle which could cause us to lose the entire war for prosperity. Everyone who is against federalization need to ask themselves what if the federal government didn't implement federalization and told the CNMI there would be no more money coming to the CNMI? Another question for the opposition to federalization is how much help should anyone expect when they are fighting the person trying to help?

The option our leaders have taken is to place the financial burden on the people instead of the feds who have the money. The feds give hundreds of millions away every year to help foreign countries and U.S. states with disasters and emergencies—which shows how our option of fighting is preventing us from getting federal assistance with the fuel cost at CUC, which is clearly operating under emergency conditions. State governments and citizens are getting everything from gas subsidies to disaster money to save the salmon fishing industry, yet we haven't gotten a dime because

of this option for winning. We are too busy fighting. We have already been suffering under emergency conditions with CUC and threats of blackouts, the fees are doubling for everything from driver's licenses to marriage licenses. The school system is begging the government to ask for federal emergency assistance or schools may close. Why make the people continue to suffer when we can get federal assistance with what is clearly an economic disaster, given our dependency on fuel for power and the disappearing act by the garment industry we sacrificed so much to help and now we are paying.

Another option for winning that I must share is landownership, which is the biggest inhibitor to economic prosperity. Being a U.S. citizen it was disappointing to hear the administration promote landownership for foreign investors when the best investors are already here—the citizens from the mainland in the CNMI who want to invest and own their home or business. But the gesture to help foreign investors before helping U.S. investors and U.S. citizens in the CNMI speaks volumes about the real problem. Instead of clearing the economic and

social hurdle of Article XII, the administration created another political hurdle for us to overcome by putting foreign investors in front of the line. Where is the sense of nationalism and the civic virtue and common good for all citizens in the CNMI? Promoting landownership for foreigners before allowing American investors and all U.S. citizens their rights is just another example of why we are facing federalization and why the U.S. citizens who are not local need federalization to protect our basic rights, especially when every indigenous person enjoys these rights on the mainland. The government doesn't have to protect the rights of the indigenous people to own the land because they already own the land. The winning option should be obvious to people with common sense.

But everyone that truly understands the power of atonement knows that the ultimate option at our disposal is the ability to turn adversity into prosperity by disposing of the past for new beginnings—a process that can only begin through atonement. Both the CNMI and the federal government have fallen short in the

expectations of each other but there has never been an act of atonement to put these disappointments behind. We learn about the power of apologies at an early age yet it seems the power of apologizing hasn't entered the political arena and our leaders have chosen to remain in denial when everyone knows we failed to meet the expectations of Washington on wages and immigration. If the pope can apologize, then certainly our politicians can apologize for failing to raise minimum wages and properly handling immigration. It would be far better and to our advantage for the CNMI to make the first step of atonement in eliminating the political hurdles of the past for a new beginning, as opposed to establishing a political status commission that will clearly be counterproductive to federalization efforts. We need to start clearing political hurdles instead of creating more hurdles. The only option we have for winning the war for prosperity and equality for everyone in the CNMI is through our cooperation with federalization.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Business

Oil prices near \$118/barrel in Asia

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices steadied Wednesday after climbing in the previous session to a record near \$120 a barrel on the weakening U.S. dollar and concerns about unstable supply amid firm global demand.

The dollar's drop to a record low Tuesday against the euro helped draw more funds from investors who see commodities such as oil as a hedge against inflation and a falling dollar. A weaker greenback

also makes oil cheaper for investors overseas.

"The bulls are certainly in control of the oil market right now," said Victor Shum, an energy analyst with Purvin & Gertz in Singapore. "The dollar continues to face a lot of pressure, it is likely to further weaken and that will continue to underpin prices."

Many analysts expect the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates further this year to try to

shore up the ailing U.S. economy, a move that would likely further weaken the dollar.

Light, sweet crude for June delivery fell 7 cents to \$118.00 in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midmorning in Singapore.

The May contract, which expired Tuesday, rose as high as \$119.90 in its last trading session and closed at \$119.37. The more-active June contract, now the front-month, settled at \$118.07 a barrel, up \$1.44.

Oil is now nearly double its closing price a year ago, and up 24 percent in 2008.

Supply constraints also supported prices. A Royal Dutch Shell PLC joint venture declared what's known as force majeure on April and May oil delivery contracts from a 400,000-barrel-a-day Nigerian oil field due to a pipeline attack last week. The move protects the company from litigation if it fails to deliver on contractual obligations to buyers.

Euro breaks through \$1.60 as dollar sinks to new lows

NEW YORK (AP)—The euro roared to another record high Tuesday, crossing \$1.60 for the first time ever after a pair of European Central Bank governors said high inflation may cause the bank to raise interest rates. The U.S. dollar also fell against the Japanese yen and the British pound.

The euro rose as high as \$1.6018, more than a penny above the \$1.5916 it bought late Monday. The 15-nation currency, which was introduced in 1999, has traded as low as 82 cents. It has surged recently, rising 20 cents against the dollar in just five months and 10 cents in just two months.

The euro hit its last record of \$1.5982 Thursday. It dropped back Friday after a Wall Street rally generated optimism that the

worst of the U.S. credit crunch may be over, but the euro rose again Monday when Bank of America's first-quarter earnings fell short of expectations.

The dollar's slump is a boon for U.S. companies that rely heavily on exports, but it's the bane of travelers as worldwide inflation rises, air fares climb and prices rise in dollar terms for everything from beer in Munich to fine wine in Paris to gondola rides in Venice.

Tuesday's remarks by Yves Mersch in the Financial Times Deutschland and comments made by Christian Noyer to France's RTL radio showed the governing council of the ECB is committed get euro zone inflation back around 2 percent, below the current 3.6 percent it is at now.

Govt to release proposed fuel economy regulations

WASHINGTON (AP)—The next generation of new cars and trucks will need to meet a fleet average of 31.6 miles per gallon by 2015, or about a 4.5 percent annual increase from 2011 to 2015. In 2015, passenger cars will need to achieve 35.7 mpg and trucks will need to reach 28.6 mpg.

The rules were designed to push companies to boost fuel efficiency across their entire lineup. Manufacturers will have different requirements for cars and trucks of different sizes based on vehicle sales. Collectively, the fleet of new vehicles will need to meet the rules.

Among individual manufacturers, passenger cars built in 2015 by General Motors will need to average 34.7 mpg, Ford's cars will need to reach 35.5 mpg and Toyota's cars will have to achieve 34.6 mpg.

For light trucks, GM will need to reach 27.4 mpg by 2015, while Ford will have to average 28.8 mpg and Toyota will need to hit 28 mpg.

New cars and trucks will have

to meet a fleet-wide average of 31.6 mpg by 2015, or about a 4.5 percent annual increase from 2011 to 2015. In 2015, passenger cars will need to achieve 35.7 mpg and trucks will need to reach 28.6 mpg.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print or sign language interpreters, must call 664-3029. Several days notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/s/ Margaret Aldan
Vice Chairman

INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC) 2007/2008

In Mexico, oil production slipped 7.8 percent in the first quarter to 2.91 million barrels a day as output at the country's oil fields waned, state oil company Petroleos Mexicanos said.


**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**
**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB08-DPW-060**
SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 19, 2008 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.
**“SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC SIGNAL EQUIPMENTS
AND PARTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS”**
**COPIES OF THE BID SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY,
LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.**
**PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT
RESIDENTS AS PER PL15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PL15-118
AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS
CLAIMED.**
**/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Acting Secretary of DPW**
**/s/ HERMAN S. SABLON
Director, P&S**


**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950**
PUBLIC NOTICE
In accordance with the “Open Government Act”, the Public School System Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC), is hereby serving notice to the general public that it will hold its regular meeting on Thursday, May 1, 2008, 10:30 to 1:30 at the PIC, Saipan. This meeting is open to the public and interested individuals are welcome to attend.
AGENDA
I. Call to Order
 A. Welcome & Introduction
 B. Presence of Quorum
II. Consent Items
 A. Adoption of Agenda
 B. Adoption of Minutes 12/17/07
III. Orientation: To be facilitated by CEDDERS Guam
 A. ICC Roles and Responsibilities
 B. Review of By-Laws
 1. Discuss composition of Sub Committees
 C. Current Membership: Review composition of current membership
IV. Election of Officers:
 A. Chairperson
 B. Secretary
V. Coordinators Report
 A. Grant Application (Status Report)
 B. Annual Performance Report and State Performance Plan (Status Report)
 C. Child Count (Status Report)
VI. Other Business/Miscellaneous/Announcements
VII. Next Meeting Dates, Times, Locations
VIII. Adjournment
In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but require accessibility such as large print or sign language interpreters, must call 664-3029. Several days notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.
 /s/ Margaret Aldan
Vice Chairman

INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC) 2007/2008


**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**
**In the Matter of : CIVIL
the Estate of ACTION
HENRY SABLON NO.
PANGELINAN : 08-0115D**
Deceased. :
NOTICE
NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN that Microl Corporation, Joeten Motor Company, Inc., and Pacific International Marianas, Inc., have filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the estate of Henry Sablan Pangelinan, deceased; and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court of Tuesday, May 20, 2008, at 1:30 p.m.
Notice is also given to all heirs and persons having claim against the Estate of Henry Sablan Pangelinan, Deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, that shall file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., P. O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950, Attorney for Petitioners. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.
DATED: April 17, 2008.
 /s/ Clerk of Court

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court as Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.


**NORTHERN MARIANAS
HOUSING CORPORATION**
PUBLIC NOTICE
Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that a Special Meeting of the Board will be held on Monday, April 28, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.
I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 a. Call to Order
 b. Roll Call
II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
III. MORTGAGE CREDIT PROGRAMS
 a. RURAL DEVELOPMENT
 b. BANK OF HAWAII LOANS
IV. FISCAL AFFAIRS
 a. 2009 BUDGET
 b. CDA – SUGAR KING PROPERTIES
V. PUBLIC COMMENTS
VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VII. OTHER MATTERS
VIII. ADJOURNMENT
(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)
 /s/
MANUEL A. SABLON
 Chairman of the Board

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body.
All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.
 /s/ Alvaro A. Santos
 Chairman, Board of Trustees

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Ship pilot charged with lying about prescription drug use

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The pilot of the container ship that spilled 53,000 gallons of oil into San Francisco Bay was charged Tuesday with two felony counts of lying to Coast Guard officials about his prescription drug use. Capt. John Cota, 60, previously was charged with two misdemeanor environmental crimes for his role in the Nov. 7 accident that fouled the bay, killed or injured thousands of birds and forced the closure of Bay Area beaches. The new, more serious charges accuse Cota of lying on annual medical reports in 2006 and 2007 that are required by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Virtual fence on Mexican border deemed insufficient

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—The government is scrapping a \$20 million prototype of its highly touted “virtual fence” on the Arizona-Mexico border because the system is failing to adequately alert border patrol agents to illegal crossings, officials said. The move comes just two months after Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff announced his approval of the fence built by The Boeing Co. The fence consists of nine electronic surveillance towers along a 28-mile section of border southwest of Tucson. Boeing is to replace the so-called Project 28 prototype with a series of towers equipped with communications systems, new cameras and new radar capability, officials said.

Grizzly bear kills man at Calif. training site

BIG BEAR LAKE, Calif. (AP)—A grizzly bear killed a trainer Tuesday at a private facility for exotic animals used in movies and television, authorities said. Three experienced handlers were working with the bear at Randy Miller’s Predators in Action facility when the bear bit 39-year-old Stephan Miller on the neck, said San Bernardino County sheriff’s spokeswoman Cindy Beavers. Stephan Miller is Randy’s cousin, she said. The center’s staff used pepper spray to subdue and contain the bear and there were no other injuries, she said. A county Fire Department traumatic injury response unit responded about 3 p.m., but could not revive Miller.

Federal indictment over ricin found in Vegas motel room

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A man suspected to have been poisoned by ricin found later in his hotel room was indicted Tuesday on federal charges that include possession of a biological toxin. Roger Bergendorff and his lawyer, Paul Riddle, did not appear when U.S. District Court Magistrate Peggy Leen unsealed the indictment and scheduled Bergendorff for an arraignment and plea May 2, federal prosecutor Gregory Damm said. Riddle said the indictment was not a surprise and that Bergendorff would plead not guilty. Bergendorff, 57, also was charged with possession of unregistered firearms and possession of firearms not identified by serial number. Among the objects seized from Bergendorff’s were a .22-caliber Browning semiautomatic handgun with a silencer and a .22-caliber silencer with no serial number, according to the indictment.

Clinton grinds out win in Pennsylvania



Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., and her husband former President Bill Clinton celebrate at her Pennsylvania primary election night party in Philadelphia, Tuesday, April 22, 2008. AP

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Hillary Rodham Clinton ground out a gritty victory in the Pennsylvania primary Tuesday night, defeating Barack Obama and staving off elimination in their historic race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

“Some counted me out and said to drop out,” the former first lady told supporters cheering her triumph in a state where she was outspent by more than two-to-one. “But the American people don’t quit. And they deserve a president who doesn’t quit, either.”

“Because of you, the tide is turning.”

Her victory, while comfortable, set up another critical test in two weeks time in Indiana. North Carolina votes the same day, and Obama already is the clear favorite in a Southern state with a large black population.

Polygamist sect kids go to foster care

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP)—Kept together at large west Texas sites for two weeks, the first of more than 400 children taken from a polygamist compound boarded buses Tuesday bound for group homes and other faraway foster care facilities.

The children eagerly waved and smiled at television cameras as the buses rolled out. Adult members of the sect, meanwhile, filed through an unmarked building on a courthouse square in nearby Eldorado for the second day of DNA testing.

Authorities are trying to map the tangled family trees that authorities came across while investigating a teenage girl’s allegation of abuse by her much older husband.

Lawyers inside San Angelo Coliseum who were meeting with their adult or

child clients said state Children’s Protective Services workers installed tight security, allowing no one in or out while the children, 114 of them by day’s end, were loaded onto the buses.

The remaining 300 children at the coliseum were still undergoing DNA testing and could be moved on Thursday, said Guy Choate, a state bar official who has been coordinating the attorneys brought from all over the state to represent the children.

State District Judge Barbara Walther signed an order Tuesday allowing the state to begin moving the children into temporary foster care while the state completes DNA testing of the 437 children and at least 175 adults and develops individual custody and treatment plans.

On Monday, technicians tested children and parents in the coliseum. On

Tuesday, the state added a testing site closer to the ranch, on the Eldorado courthouse square.

Women in prairie dresses and men with shirts buttoned to their necks trickled into a stone building flanked by deputies to offer DNA samples. Their lawyers said many were reluctant to offer samples for testing they believe is invasive and unnecessary.

Arriving in pickup trucks and sport-utility vehicles a few at a time, the parents came to allow technicians in lab coats to swab inside their mouths as they fight to regain custody of their children.

By midday, only about two dozen of the 175 adults under court order had shown up. Several dozen mothers were still with the youngest children at a shelter and they could be swabbed there.

“Now it’s up to you, Indiana,” Obama said at a rally of his own in Evansville after Pennsylvania denied him a victory that might have made the nomination his.

He criticized John McCain, the Republican presidential nominee-in-waiting, by name as offering more of the same policies advocated by President Bush. And he took aim at Clinton without mentioning her by name. “We can calculate and poll-test our positions and tell everyone exactly what they want to hear,” he said. “Or we can be the party that doesn’t just focus on how to win, but why we should.”

In a campaign marked by increasingly personal attacks, Clinton was winning 55 percent of the vote to 45 percent for her rival with 94 percent counted in Pennsylvania.

A preliminary tabulation showed her gaining at least 52 national convention delegates to 46 for Obama, with 60 still to be awarded.

That left Obama with 1,694.5 delegates, and Clinton with 1,561.5, according to the AP tally.

Clinton scored her victory by winning the votes of blue-collar workers, women and white men in an election where the economy was the dominant concern. Obama was favored by blacks, the affluent and voters who recently switched to the Democratic Party, a group that comprised about one in ten Pennsylvania voters, according to the surveys conducted by The Associated Press and the TV networks.

Pregnant bank teller, twin fetuses survive attack in robbery

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—A bank teller pregnant with twins was shot in the abdomen during a robbery Tuesday morning, but both the teller and the fetuses survived the attack, authorities said.

The masked gunman came into the Huntington Bank branch around 9:30 a.m., jumped over the counter screaming, shot the teller and grabbed cash from her drawer, police said. He fired another shot as he ran out of the bank.

The bullet entered the abdomen of Katherin Shuffield, 30, who is five months pregnant, but missed both fetuses, Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard said.

“Angry is really what I am. This is just brazen,” said Ballard.

Police said the gunman used a compact assault rifle.

Shuffield was hospitalized in critical but stable condition, police spokesman Sgt. Paul Thompson said.

Police arrested two teenagers who were trying to enter a nearby high school about two hours after the attack, but both were released to their parents and were no longer considered suspects, Thompson said.

“This is senseless. Some poor lady, trying to make a living, pregnant, shot by a man without any provocation,” Police Chief Michael Spears said.

The high school that the two teenagers tried to enter was temporarily locked down. Officers searched the school for a weapon, Spears said. Other schools in the area also were locked down as police searched for the shooter.

Study finds drunk driving trends North

WASHINGTON (AP)—The upper Midwest has the worst drunken driving rates in the country, according to a government report that says 15 percent of adult drivers nationally report driving under the influence of alcohol in the previous year.

Wisconsin leads the way. The federal government estimates more than a quarter of the state’s adult drivers had driven under the influence. Rounding out the worst five are North Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska and South Dakota.

Utah had the lowest incidence of drunken driving. It was the only state where fewer than 10 percent of adult

motorists reported driving under the influence. Following closely behind were a slew of Southern states that often fare poorly when it comes to government health statistics. This time, however, they’re serving as models. West Virginia, Arkansas, Kentucky and North Carolina all had drunken driving rates for the prior year of less than 11 percent.

The report on drunken driving relies on data obtained from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health. The survey, based on a scientific random sample of households, asked 127,283 adults in 2004, 2005 and 2006 whether they had driven

under the influence in the past year. Health experts say the state-by-state breakdowns support other surveys showing that residents in northern states are more likely to engage in heavy alcohol consumption.

“It’s not surprising, but it means that these jurisdictions should take this data and think about how they approach public education campaigns and enforcement campaigns,” said Dr. H. Westley Clark of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, which released the report. The agency is a part of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Asia

Olympic flame's route is scaled back in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Torchbearers ran laps with the Olympic flame in front of an invitation-only crowd Tuesday after officials changed the relay route from Jakarta's streets to a sports stadium amid pressure from China to keep away demonstrators.

Police arrested several protesters rallying nearby and seized Tibetan flags and banners in the latest actions against a global relay that Beijing had hoped would promote the Aug. 8-24 Olympics.

Criticism of China's human rights record has turned the relay into one of the most contentious in recent history. Anti-Chinese protests have dogged stops in Greece, Paris, London and San Francisco.

Countries have responded by sharply modifying routes and boosting security. Indonesia deployed water cannons and 3,000 police officers in the capital.

The staged event in Jakarta was not televised live, apparently because no broadcaster was prepared to pay for the rights.

The 5,000 people who gathered at the Bung Karno Stadium to welcome the Olympic flame under dark, rainy skies were mostly government officials, flag-waving Chinese nationals working in the city, students, and people invited by corporate sponsors.

"I am excited to witness history," said Andrea Putri, 15. "This kind of thing does not happen every day."

Dogs find abandoned baby in India

NEW DELHI (AP) — Stray dogs located a baby girl abandoned under mud and leaves in northeastern India and their barking alerted rescuers, a government official said Tuesday.

The newborn was discovered Sunday when the dogs' yelps and howls drew villagers to a fruit orchard, district magistrate Asangba Chuba Ao told The Associated Press.

Bits of mud and dry leaves had been scattered on top of the child, he said.

The girl was placed in the care of a farm couple in the village of Narhan, in the Nepal-bordering state of Bihar. Local officials had no information about her birth parents.



Men carry a box containing the Olympic flame arrives in Canberra, Australia, Wednesday, April 23, 2008 for the torch relay for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

China calls for halt in radical anti-France demonstrations

BEIJING (AP) — With praise for the French president and appeals for calm, China's leadership signaled Tuesday that it is ready to put an end to anti-France sentiment that has swept the country since the chaotic Olympic torch relay in Paris.

France and high-profile French retailer Carrefour have been singled out by Chinese nationalists who felt insulted by the raucous protests by pro-Tibetan groups and others during the torch run through the French capital.

Anger over the disruption, coupled with comments by French President Nicolas Sarkozy that he might boycott the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympics, swelled into demonstrations over the weekend at the French Embassy in Beijing and at Carrefour stores in nine Chinese cities.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said Tuesday that the Carrefour demonstrations were "encouraging and touching," but she added that "we do not agree with some people's radical actions."

"We also hope that the French side can respond positively to the aspirations of the Chinese people so that our bilateral relations can proceed smoothly and healthily," the spokeswoman said.

Filipino veterans bill advances in Senate despite controversy

WASHINGTON (AP) — Legislation to provide millions of dollars in new pension benefits to Filipino veterans of World War II cleared a major Senate hurdle Tuesday. The White House and some Republicans said the money would be spent better on American soldiers fighting President George W. Bush's campaign against terror.

Despite the controversy, the Senate voted 94-0 to advance the bill to a final vote sometime this week.

Democrats pushing the legislation want a 60-year-old law overturned to give 18,000 Filipino veterans of that war who live abroad a pension amounting to roughly \$300-a-month

(€190-a-month).

The White House and Republican opponents of the bill point out that such a pension would be added to one already afforded the veterans by their government.

No lawmaker wants to be accused of opposing federal aid to veterans, especially in an election year. Senators on both sides bandied that accusation and sparred over which veterans are most deserving of U.S. aid at this time in history.

Democrats said the aid is long overdue to these Filipino veterans who fought alongside Americans during World War II, when the Philippines was a U.S. commonwealth.

Colombian president's cousin surrenders

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — A close political ally of Colombian President Alvaro Uribe wanted for allegedly backing illegal militias surrendered to police Tuesday night after Costa Rica denied him political asylum.

Colombia's chief prosecutor had ordered the arrest of former Sen. Mario Uribe, President Uribe's second cousin, earlier Tuesday on charges of criminal conspiracy for "agreements to promote illegal armed groups." The former senator had immediately entered the Costa Rican embassy in Bogota to seek asylum but was denied.

Amid protesters' shouts of "murderer," Mario Uribe left the small, one-story embassy and departed in a black SUV escorted by four motorcycle police, who cut a path through reporters and some 50 protesters, the chief prosecutor's office said.

Reporters saw two people in the vehicle's back seat whose heads were covered with jackets.

The arrest ended a long, tense day that brought a scandal linking politicians and right-wing paramilitaries deeper into the president's inner circle.

BAGHDAD (AP) — A bomb-rigged truck exploded at a checkpoint Tuesday near the western city of Ramadi, killing two U.S. Marines and wounding three others in an apparent strike by al-Qaida in Iraq in one of its former strongholds.

At least one civilian also died and two dozen were injured in the blast, the latest in a string of recent strikes in areas where local Sunnis have joined U.S. forces to battle al-Qaida.

Ramadi is the capital of Anbar province, which was once held by insurgents. But it has been relatively peaceful since local Sunni tribal leaders joined forces with the U.S. military against the terror movement.

No lawmaker wants to be accused of opposing federal aid to veterans, especially in an election year. Senators on both sides bandied that accusation and sparred over which veterans are most deserving of U.S. aid at this time in history.

Democrats said the aid is long overdue to these Filipino veterans who fought alongside Americans during World War II, when the Philippines was a U.S. commonwealth.

World

UN: Darfur conflict worsens, with perhaps 300,000 dead

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The conflict in Darfur is deteriorating, with full deployment of a new peacekeeping force delayed until 2009 and no prospect of a political settlement for a war that has killed perhaps 300,000 people in five years, U.N. officials said Tuesday.

In grim reports to the Security Council, the United Nations aid chief and the representative of the peacekeeping mission said suffering in the Sudanese region is worsening. Tens of thousands more have been uprooted from their homes and food rations to the needy are about to be cut in half, they said.

"We continue to see the goal posts receding, to the point where peace in Darfur seems further away today than ever," said John Holmes, undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs.

The conflict began in early 2003 when ethnic African rebels took up arms against Sudan's Arab-dominated central government, accusing it of discrimination. Many of the worst atrocities in the war have been blamed on the janjaweed militia of Arab nomads allied with the government.

A joint U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force took over duties in Darfur in January from a beleaguered 7,000-man AU mission. But only about

9,000 soldiers and police officers of the authorized 26,000 have deployed.

"We are late and we are trying to speed up the deployment of this mission, and we are facing many obstacles," said the U.N.-AU force's envoy, Rodolphe Adada. "But eventually, with the help of some donors, we could be in a position to achieve maybe 80 percent of the force by the end of this year."

The mission faces major problems in putting troops into a very hostile environment, Adada said. It still lacks five critical capabilities to become operational—attack helicopters, surveillance aircraft, transport helicopters, military engineers and logistical support.

Holmes said further progress in deploying the joint peacekeeping force, known as UNAMID, would help protect civilians and possibly humanitarian convoys.

"But only an end to all violence and concrete steps towards a political settlement will make the fundamental difference needed, as the rebel movements themselves above all need to recognize," Holmes said. "Otherwise the reality is that the people of Darfur face a continued steady deterioration of their conditions of life and their chances of lasting recovery."

US Marines

quarters of a group of U.S.-aligned Sunni fighters, killing three people and wounding three others, the U.S. military said.

Al-Qaida has been regrouping after suffering a devastating blow last year when thousands of Sunni tribesmen turned against them. Last weekend, al-Qaida announced a one-month offensive against U.S. troops and Sunnis who have joined forces with Americans.

Osama bin Laden's deputy, Ayman al-Zawahri, said in an audiotape posted Tuesday on the Internet that al-Qaida-led insurgents in Iraq were the "primary force" in battling the Americans and "challenging Iranian ambitions" in this country.

Suicide bomber kills two

Iraqi police said the suicide attacker drove a small water tanker packed with explosives to the checkpoint and detonated them when he reached the guards. The U.S. military said two Marines were killed and three injured.

In Diyala province, north of Baghdad, a woman detonated an explosive vest at the entrance to an Iraqi police station in Jalawla, killing eight policemen and a Kurdish security guard, police said. Ten other people were wounded.

It was the second suicide attack by a woman in as many days in Diyala, which has been a flashpoint in the battle against al-Qaida. A young woman blew herself up Monday at the head-

Balloons found in ocean from priest's try at a flight record

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — Rescuers reached a cluster of brightly colored party balloons floating in the ocean off Brazil's coast Tuesday but did not find the Roman Catholic priest who had been using them in a bid to set a flight record.

Rev. Adelir Antonio di Carli remained missing after lifting off from the port city of Paranagua on Sunday strapped to hundreds of helium-filled balloons. He was also wearing a helmet,

aluminum thermal flight suit, water proof coveralls and parachute and was seeking to break a record for the longest time in flight with party balloons.

He planned to use the money raised in his attempt to break the 19-hour record to fund a "spiritual" rest-stop for truckers in Paranagua, home to Brazil's largest grain port.

Di Carli was reported missing about eight hours after taking off when he lost contact with

port authority officials.

The cluster of yellow, orange, pink and white balloons was seen Tuesday night, floating intact in the sea off Brazil's southern Santa Catarina state near di Carli's last contact point, according to a photograph posted on Sao Paulo's UOL news Web site.

Authorities reached the cluster of balloons late Tuesday but the priest was not there, Globo TV said.

Environment

Kids of all ages invited to Friday story hour



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Semona Igama, Micronesia Challenge intern, is shown here describing the importance of environmental protection and why walking on reefs is bad.

Learn more about our natural resources with a story hour at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library every Friday from 3pm to 4:30pm.

This new activity was initiated a



couple of weeks ago by Micronesia Challenge Intern, Semona Igama. Igama said she wanted to bring her Micronesia Challenge outreach to children of all ages and a library is a great place of



(CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

Lemmor Cadog and Maelyn Naputi work on their activity sheets. Prior to the activity time, they listened to Semona Igama talk about MPAs and the importance of environmental protection.

learning outside of the classroom.

According to Igama, the topic changes each week, but each story hour also includes activities and other inter-

tive demonstrations and possibly some small give-away items like posters, placemats, word-find puzzles, coral reef magnets, etc.

Community organizations like Marianas Dive and Mariana Islands Nature Alliance as well as government entities Coastal Resources, DEQ and Fish and Wildlife have teamed up to enhance their environmental outreach to school children and library goers.

Future topics include turtles, coral reefs, diving, brown tree snakes, water quality, and many more.

The schedule for the next 5 weeks is as follows:

April 25 – CRM Coral Reef Program/RARE Pride Campaign

May 2 – DFW Turtle Program

May 9 – Micronesia Challenge

May 16 – Marianas Dive

May 23 – Mariana Islands Nature Alliance – Coral Reefs

Last Friday, Reina Camacho, DEQ's public information officer, read "Earth

Day" a young book about waste reduction and recycling at the school and village level.

The Micronesia Challenge aims to effectively conserve 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of terrestrial resources across Micronesia by the year 2020. The challenge is supported by the chief executives from the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

For more information about the story hour at the library, contact Reina Camacho at DEQ 664-8500, reinacamacho@deq.gov.mp. (*CoCo*)

An Inconvenient Truth screening

In celebration of Earth Day and the National Park Week and of course, the Year of the Reef, CNMI Organization for Conservation Outreach [CoCo] is hosting a FREE movie showing this week. If you have not yet seen *An Inconvenient Truth* take advantage now.

An Inconvenient Truth will be shown on Saturday, April 26, 10am, 1pm and 3pm.

Climate change is caused by the ever increasing presence of climate changing gases in the atmosphere, like carbon dioxide. These gases are released from burning fossil fuels like coal and oil in the transport and energy sectors. Climate changing gases trap heat in the atmosphere, causing impacts like sea level rise and changing weather patterns.

While Pacific islands, together, contribute less than 1 percent of global climate change causing gases, we are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

The Mariana Islands, like most Pacific islands, the people, agricultural land, tourist resorts and infrastructure (including roads and airports) are concentrated in the coastal zones, and are thus especially vulnerable to any rise in sea level.

Climate change will shift rainfall patterns causing prolonged droughts in some regions. Computer models predict that global warming will shift rainfall patterns, resulting in extended drought conditions in some areas, and excessive rainfall in others.

Each El Niño event has resulted in water shortages and drought in Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, American Samoa, Samoa, Tonga, Kiribati and Fiji. More frequent El Niño events also bring an increased risk of tropical cyclones, particularly for Tuvalu, Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands and French Polynesia.

Just because the Marianas Islands is not included on the list above does not mean we are not vulnerable to changes in typhoon seasons, water shortages and drought.

Please, find an hour or two this week to visit American Memorial Park and watch *An Inconvenient Truth*. You may also walk away with some giveaways from the coral program! (*DEQ*)

Remediation in the CNMI

Also in Tanapag village, six above-ground storage tanks were removed in 2006. The Tanapag Fuel Farm, built in the mid to late 1940s, was used by the U.S. Navy to provide fuel for ships and aircraft during World War II and through the 1950s, after which the tanks were abandoned. Historical information suggests there were up to 42 tanks which held different types of gas and oil. A survey conducted in 1998 by the US Army Corps of Engineers revealed that 25 tanks were still



A worker stands next to the sign warning about the PCB site at the Tanapag cemetery.

visible on the ground. Of those tanks, this removal effort is aimed at six that were considered high priority, due to their residual content of petroleum product, and consequently removed in June 2006.

This joint effort not only rid the Tanapag community of these potential health hazards, but also trained DEQ staff in the areas of planning, assessment, sampling, health and safety

monitoring, cleanup and project management.

One year later in 2007, DEQ, together with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began the Limited Excavation and Capping of the former Kagman Airfield Dumpsite.

A depth of 18 inches, from surface, of lead contaminated soils was excavated from the entire 2 acres site amounting to nearly 15,000 cubic yards. Some areas were excavated beyond 18 inches to chase the contaminants to below the

used the multi-incremental sampling method to collect soils samples from the entire site.

To date, the project is nearing completion. The final stage of the project will be the backfilling of the excavated area at the site using "clean" soil. At this time, SAR is coordinating with the Army Corps for this final restoration phase of the site.

One of the most recent, and exciting, activities of the SAR branch is the awarding of \$400,000 in Brownfields grants. DEQ will receive \$200,000 to continue assessment of hazardous substance sites and support community outreach activities. Another \$200,000 will be provided to the Dept. of Public Lands for the cleanup of WWII unexploded ordnance on the northern end of Saipan. Eventually, this cleanup will allow for the development of approximately 500 new homesteads for local residents. In 2007, DEQ received a grant award of \$200,000 for the assessment of petroleum contaminated sites CNMI-wide.

Looking ahead, the SAR branch has generated an inventory list of 66 potential brownfields sites collectively for the following islands: Saipan 36, Rota 19, and Tinian 11. The assessment grants for petroleum and hazardous substances will be used for the Phase I assessment of the sites identified to be eligible brownfields. The SAR branch will work with the individual property owners to determine their interest to participate in this program. Once determined eligible, SAR will obtain an access agreement to conduct the Phase I activity. SAR expects to implement the Phase I environmental site assessments beginning this FY08 and hope to conduct at least 10 assessments for any given year.

For more information about the Site Assessment and Remediation branch, contact Ray Masga at 664-8500 or email him at raymasga@deq.gov.mp. (*DEQ*)

Life & Style

Scientists study Arctic haze for clues to rapid melting

By DAN JOLING
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (AP)—Visitors to Alaska often marvel at the crisp, clear air. But the truth is, the skies above the Arctic Circle work like a giant lint trap during late winter and early spring, catching all sorts of pollutants swirling around the globe.

In recent weeks, scientists have been going up in government research planes and taking samples of the Arctic haze in hopes of solving a mystery: Are the floating particles accelerating the unprecedented warming going on in the far north?

While carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that trap the Earth's heat are believed to be the chief cause of global warming, scientists suspect that airborne particles known as aerosols are also contributing to the Arctic meltdown.

To prove their suspicions, they are analyzing the haze, using mass spectroscopy and other technology to identify what is in it, where it came from and how it interacts with the clouds, the sunlight and the snow cover.

Their air samples have been found to contain dust from Asian deserts, salts that swell

up moisture, particles from incomplete burning of organic material from forest and cooking fires, and all manner of nasties emitted by automobile tailpipes, factory smokestacks and power plants.

Collectively, they are a United Nations of pollution. Through chemical analysis, the particles can be traced to their sources throughout Asia, Europe and North America.

"The Arctic is a melting pot for mid-latitude pollution," said Daniel Jacob, a Harvard scientist taking part in the research. "We have signatures of just about everything you can imagine flying around in the Arctic."

The research is being conducted separately by NASA, the Department of Energy and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, and involves about 275 scientists and support staff and five aircraft.

The researchers are building on the work of a University of Alaska Fairbanks atmospheric scientist who arrived 35 years ago. Glenn Shaw took a light meter to Barrow, America's northernmost community, figuring he could document the clearest skies on the globe and perhaps get a mention in a scientific journal.

Floating aerosols may cause warming

While carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are believed to be the chief cause of global warming, scientists suspect that aerosols are also a contributing factor to recent Arctic melting.

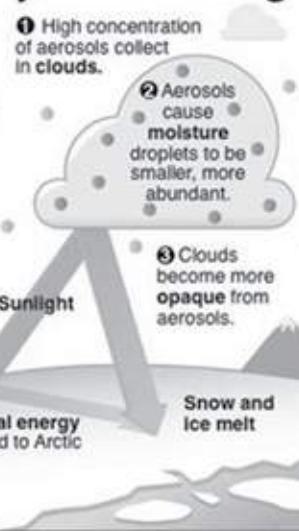
Arctic haze theory of warming

Aerosol pollutants can be traced to Asia, Europe and North America.

"I was expecting to set a record," he said, "because at the northern tip of Alaska, there's no industry, and the idea was that this must be the cleanest place, essentially, almost, on planet Earth."

He was wrong. Shaw detected a phenomenon later dubbed Arctic Haze that indicated the skies above Barrow and all the way to the North Pole collect pollutants.

"The important thing was, and is, this is aerosol material that is traveling over three or four thousand miles, which was un-



precedented at the time," he said.

The focus on greenhouse gases has made it difficult to bring other possible agents of climate change into the discussion, Jacob said. But last summer's startling melt-off of Arctic sea

ice has lent new urgency to the research blitz now under way.

It is well-established that soot that has fallen on snow can absorb heat from the sun and cause melting. But the researchers are also interested in what the soot does while it is still airborne.

Among other things, they want to know how the size and density of the particles alter the type and longevity of clouds, said Greg McFarquhar of the University of Illinois. Also, they want to find out whether the airborne particles reflect heat back into space or absorb it.

In most of the world, particles lead to cooling by reflecting light before it reaches the Earth's surface, partially offsetting the warming effect of greenhouse gases.

But A.R. Ravishankara of NOAA's Earth System Research Laboratory said he suspects that's not the case in the Arctic, where ice and snow already reflect much of the light.

Some particles may absorb the sun's energy and give off their own radiant heat, like blacktop on a summer day, he said.

"How much of this aerosol is there?" Ravishankara asked, summarizing some of things scientists hope to find out. "Do they absorb light? Do they scatter light? Do they make clouds brighter or dimmer? Are they getting to the ice surface? Because if you add these absorbing particles to the ice surface, it could actually enhance the melting."

If aerosols prove to be a major factor in warming, Ravishankara said, removing them could yield relatively fast benefits for the environment.

"It lasts only for a few days, and then it's removed from the atmosphere, unlike carbon dioxide, which stays with us for hundreds of years," he said. "Aerosols can be a way to do something very quickly."

Another celebrity contestant done 'Dancing'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—For the third consecutive week, a last-place finish has led to elimination on "Dancing With the Stars."

This week's celebrity casualty was Marlee Matlin, who came into Tuesday's results show with 21 out of 30 points. The actress lost her timing at various points during her mambo Monday with professional partner Fabian Sanchez, and the judges took note.

"You guys looked like you were forcing and struggling," said judge Carrie Ann Inaba, who noted that the mambo is more rhythm-dependent than other ballroom dances and she expected it to be most difficult for Matlin.

"You did a great job," said head judge Len Goodman, "but it just looked uncomfortable throughout."

Judge Bruno Tonioli noticed "a few stumbles" but still called Matlin's performance "a great achievement."

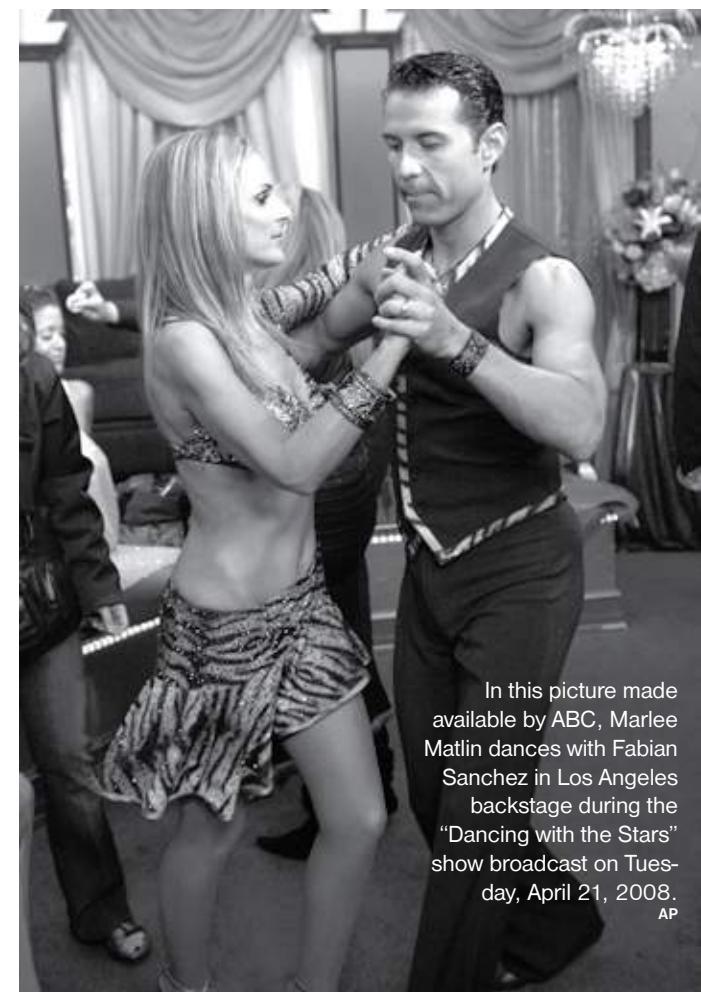
"What you do here is a plus for the show," he said.

Judges' scores are combined with viewer votes to determine which couple is eliminated each week.

After learning her fate, Matlin, 42, thanked the judges and her partner "for giving me the most beautiful art of dance in my life." She also thanked her family, her children and Henry Winkler, who appeared on Monday's show.

"He has supported me a lot over the years," Matlin said through a sign-language interpreter.

Before she left the ballroom, she got a hug from show host Tom Bergeron, who revealed



In this picture made available by ABC, Marlee Matlin dances with Fabian Sanchez in Los Angeles backstage during the "Dancing with the Stars" show broadcast on Tuesday, April 21, 2008. AP

he is a longtime friend of the Oscar winner.

"I'm going to step out of the host role and say, as a friend, I am so proud of you," Bergeron said as he hugged her.

Tuesday's results show also included a performance by Ashlee Simpson, who flashed her new engagement ring as she sang a track called "Boys" from her new "Bittersweet World" album. The Riverdance Irish step-dancing troupe showed off their fast footwork, and two more teams of tots took the floor

in the three-week-old "ballroom kids" competition.

Six celebrity contestants remain on the ABC dance-off, including pro football player Jason Taylor, Olympic skater Kristi Yamaguchi - who has finished in first place throughout the season - R&B singer Mario, and actors Shannon Elizabeth, Cristian de la Fuente and Marissa Jaret Winokur.

Priscilla Presley, Adam Carolla, Steve Guttenberg, Monica Seles and Penn Jillette have already been eliminated.

Nicole Kidman urges end to violence vs women

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Nicole Kidman urged world leaders and ordinary people on Tuesday to join the global fight to end violence against women.

The actress, seven months pregnant and passionately committed to her role as a goodwill ambassador for the U.N. Development Fund for Women, said the violence was probably the "most widespread human rights violation of our time."

"One in three women will encounter violence in some way, shape or form against them in their lifetime," Kidman told a news conference at U.N. headquarters. "That's an extraordinary statistic. Yet do we ever hear it?"

The 40-year-old Australian star became a goodwill ambassador in January 2006 for the U.N. Development Fund for Women, known as UNIFEM. Its acting executive director, Joanne Sandler, said Kidman wanted to focus on an issue "where she could make a difference."

She came to U.N. headquarters on Tuesday to join Sandler, U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro, and U.N. Foundation



President Timothy Wirth to promote UNIFEM's "Say NO to Violence Against Women" Campaign.

Since the yearlong campaign was launched on Nov. 26, Sandler said some 210,000 people have added their names to a Web page calling on world leaders to end impunity for perpetrators, provide services for survivors and, most importantly, invest in prevention.

Kidman urged people of all

nations to add their names and demand "that ending violence against women be made a top priority for governments everywhere." She also encouraged the private sector to contribute to the U.N. Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, which provides grants for programs in the developing world to help fight the scourge.

In January, the U.N. Foundation said it would donate \$1 to the fund for each of the first 100,000 signatures - and Wirth said he was happy to pay up.

Sandler said progress has been made: 89 countries have laws on domestic violence, more than 100 have made rape a crime, 90 have provisions against sexual harassment, and 93 on human trafficking. There are 192 U.N. member states.

Kidman is expecting her first child with country singer husband Keith Urban; she has two adopted children with first husband Tom Cruise.

In 2005, she starred in the movie "The Interpreter," a thriller in which she played a U.N. interpreter caught up in a cloak-and-dagger assassination attempt.

Sly Stone heads for comeback trail

By GEOFF BOUCHER

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LOS ANGELES—Sly Stone, the Howard Hughes of the Woodstock scene, rolled up on a three-wheel custom chopper painted the color of lemons. His straggly hair was tucked beneath a baseball cap and draped on his shoulders was a shirt emblazoned with images of gambler's dice and the \$100 face of Ben Franklin.

"I'm sorry I'm late," he said as he pulled off his gloves.

Late? Stone was technically tardy by all of 13 minutes, but the apology had the ring of a larger truth.

Sly and the Family Stone became famous for making some of the most euphoric, genre-busting music of the late 1960s and early 1970s—"Family Affair," "Stand," "Dance to the Music" and "I Want to Take You Higher."

But he was also notorious as the slipperiest of stars: Missed concerts, drug escapades, arrests, promoter feuds and infighting in the band. The music of the Family Stone was transcendent in the 1960s, but, by the middle of the following decade, the dream was over and Stone was on his own and living on vapors.

There were comeback attempts and albums with pleading titles ("Heard Ya Missed Me, Well I'm Back" in 1976 and three years later "Back on the Right Track"), but the arc of his story was turning grim, and he became more and more reclusive.

Now, he says, he wants to rejoin the world.

"I am ready to show people what I can do," Stone said, smiling that familiar toothy grin, although the 1960s towering afro is gone along with his funky saunter.

His posture and movement show the damage of living hard. Stone's chin never leaves his collarbone when he talks and there's a tremor and hitch to his collarbones. "I'm like this because I fell off a cliff," he said, referring to a spill he took "walking in my yard" in Beverly Hills.



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Sly Stone, the funky, visionary Family Stone leader, has a comeback in mind.

There's a sense that Stone, 65, went over the edge plenty of times.

Stone, who rarely gives interviews, had a reason for this one: He wants to mount a world tour with some of the original Family Stone members: trumpet player Cynthia Robinson, saxophonist Jerry Martini and Sister Rose Stone.

Right now he's got four dates booked, the first of them Friday at the House of Blues on the Sunset Strip, followed the next night at the chain's Anaheim site.

More than that, he wants to return to the music industry, get in the studio

with stars he's influenced and hook a young audience.

Stone always has been one quirky cat, but he seemed neither scattered nor feeble this day. His only real regret is letting down fans in the past.

"I got in fights with promoters, and I had a real attitude then -- well, I kind of still do, but not the same -- so I walked away. But I forgot the people in the audience, the people who loved the music. The music meant a lot to people, and it comes with a responsibility."

Stone's longtime manager, Jerry Brummels.

Goldstein, is still with him, but this year the singer brought in Charles Richardson, an old friend, to be his personal manager, and that led directly to the new club shows, which include May dates in Minneapolis and Chicago.

Stone has also been active in the studio, including sessions with funk giant George Clinton and has, according to Richardson, "20 years' worth of amazing material that he can work on." Much of that work has been influenced by the hip-hop era.

Promoters have made it clear that Stone is a commodity if he can prove with the club shows that he and his band can bottle the old magic. Sales to the shows have been sluggish.

"If Sly shows he can go the distance, we're told that the world is his oyster," Richardson said. Sylvester Stewart was born in Denton, Texas, where the town motto is "north of ordinary." But he grew up in Vallejo in the Bay Area, which in the 1960s could have been called "east of weird."

His music career was a family affair from the get-go. He was the second of five children, and he and Freddie, Rose and Vaetta were a gospel group called the Stewart Four and cut a single in 1952.

"When I was 4, I had a job singing with Sam Cooke on a church show in Oakland Auditorium," Stone said. "I remember people ran down the aisles, and I didn't know about the consequences or applause or celebration. I didn't know what music did to people. So I started running. It scared me. That was the first chance I got to see the response you could get from an audience by performing. Since then, I got that same feeling in a way, sometimes. You know: Run."

In the '60s, Stone studied trumpet, composition and music theory at a junior college and immersed himself in the music scene of the Bay Area as a disc jockey at soul station KSOL in Oakland and as a producer in San Francisco. He worked with Grace Slick's first band, the Great Society, as well as with Bobby Freeman and the Beau Brummels.



AP

Model Naomi Campbell arrives at the gala benefit for opening night of the Metropolitan Opera's new production of Donizetti's opera *La Fille Du Regiment* at Lincoln Center, Monday, April 21, 2008, in New York.

Naomi Campbell attends Met opening

NEW YORK (AP)—Naomi Campbell smiled for photographers but didn't stop to chat at the opening night of the Metropolitan Opera's new production of "La Fille du Regiment" (The Daughter of the Regiment).

Campbell wore a high-waisted black pantsuit designed by Yves Saint Laurent, which sponsored Monday night's gala benefit.

The 37-year-old supermodel was arrested earlier this month on suspicion of assaulting an officer after police were called to a disturbance at Heathrow Airport in London.

Witnesses said Campbell was aboard a British Airways plane due to depart for Los Angeles when she became involved in a dispute because one of her bags had been lost. During the dispute, Campbell, who has a history of assaulting assistants and employees, allegedly spit on the officer.

Campbell wasn't talking at the Met Opera event, but Rufus Wainwright was. The singer said he was shocked by reports that British Airways may have banned Campbell.

"I thought she was banned from Britain at one point but she's so strong she'll probably swim over," he jokingly told The Associated Press.

Diane Kruger, Eva Mendes, Ginnifer Goodwin, Emmy Rossum and Leighton Meester were also among those who attended the event.

Kruger arrived with Joshua Jackson, who was clad in a black velvet YSL evening jacket.

"Every day is a date night," Kruger said. "But I'm happy he's coming. He's never been (to the opera) so he's not sure what to expect."

Jackson, who agreed that he is an opera novice, said he was happy to be able to spend time with Kruger.

"This is a very grown-up date night for us," he told the AP.

Patricia Neal to receive lifetime achievement award

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—At 82, Patricia Neal still has that delightful voice—husky yet elegant—as she recalls her favorite films of her career.

"A Face in the Crowd," she says of the 1957 movie in which she starred opposite Andy Griffith. "Elia Kazan directed. I loved that one.... Andy Griffith was gorgeous."

"I also loved 'Hud' (with Paul Newman in 1963) because it won me the Oscar. And 'The Day the Earth Stood Still' (the 1951 science fiction classic). I thought it was hysterical when I made it, but they loved it."

Neal, who was born in Packard, Ky., and grew up in Knoxville, Tenn., returned to Tennessee to receive a lifetime achievement award from the Nashville Film Festival.

Singer-actor Lyle Lovett, who costarred with her in Robert Altman's 1999 film "Cookie's Fortune," was scheduled to present the honor Tuesday night.

"I'm delighted to be getting this in this state," said Neal, who graduated from Knoxville High School.

Neal, who now lives in New York, draws out words like "delighted" and "gorgeous" and often punctuates sto-

ries with a deep, hearty laugh.

"I did monologues all over the place," she says of her early days. "I then went to Northwestern University (to study drama) because they insisted I go. I went there two years and my father died my first year there. They insisted I go back another year and I did. I went on from there to New York and I got a job almost at once."

From Broadway she headed to Hollywood where her first films included a memorable role opposite Gary Cooper in "The Fountainhead" in 1949.

She returned to Broadway for "A Roomful of Roses" and "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" before opening a second and more successful chapter of her film career with "A Face in the Crowd," Kazan's portrait of political demagoguery.

Neal is candid about her past, including her affair with Cooper (he was married at the time and 25 years her senior), her debilitating strokes in the 1960s (she had to relearn to walk and talk) and her leading men (her favorite, naturally, was Cooper).

She made a courageous comeback from her illness with "The Subject Was Roses" (1968) which earned her an Oscar nomination. Her return was



Actress Patricia Neal is shown during an interview in Nashville, Tenn., Monday, April 21, 2008.

dramatized in the 1981 TV movie "The Patricia Neal Story" with Glenda Jackson portraying her.

Today, Neal continues to travel with New York's Theatre Guild and will appear with Billy Ray Cyrus in the up-

coming movie "Flying By."

She says she loves to work, always has. When she first went to New York, she recalls, "I got up every day, every day, on the streets, on the streets, on the streets. I wasn't real snobby about it."

Cruise's son Connor to appear in film

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The 13-year-old son of Tom Cruise is following in his father's footsteps.

Connor Cruise, the adopted son of Tom Cruise and ex-wife Nicole Kidman, has a minor, non-speaking part in the upcoming Will Smith drama "Seven Pounds," a spokesman for Columbia Pictures confirmed Tuesday.

Connor Cruise shot his part over two days more than a month ago, playing Smith as a young man and mostly shown in photographs.

The movie, which is still in production, co-stars Rosario Dawson and is directed

by "The Pursuit of Happyness" filmmaker Gabriele Muccino. The drama follows the story of a man who affects the lives of seven strangers.

Calls and e-mails to publicists for Kidman and Tom Cruise were not immediately returned Tuesday.

Cruise and Kidman also have an adopted daughter, 15-year-old Isabella. Kidman is pregnant with her first child with hubby singer Keith Urban.

In this Nov. 16, 2006 file photo, Connor Cruise, adopted son of Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman is shown in Rome. AP



In this Feb. 18, 2007 file photo entertainers Jay-Z and Beyoncé Knowles are photographed before the NBA All-Star basketball game in Las Vegas. AP

Beyoncé, Jay-Z filed marriage license

SCARSDALE, N.Y. (AP) — A village clerk says a marriage license for Beyoncé Knowles and Jay-Z, dated April 4 and signed by the person who officiated at the wedding, is being filed with the state.

The license was received by mail last Friday, says Scarsdale Clerk Donna Conkling. She would not say who officiated.

The celebrities and their representatives had refused to confirm widespread rumors about

the marriage. But there was a lavish party at Jay-Z's Manhattan apartment on April 4, with guests including Gwyneth Paltrow and Beyoncé's former Destiny's Child bandmates, Kelly Rowland and Michelle Williams.

The couple have apparently been dating for six years. Knowles, 26, and Jay-Z, 38, whose real name is Shawn Carter, have collaborated on the songs "03 Bonnie and Clyde" and "Crazy In Love."

Sambora pleads out DUI case in Calif.

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) — Richie Sambora struck a deal with prosecutors Tuesday just hours after they filed drunken driving charges against him, pleading no contest to one misdemeanor count of driving with a blood-alcohol level above the legal limit.

In turn, the district attorney agreed to drop a second charge—driving under the influence of alcohol—against the Bon Jovi guitarist, said Farrah Emami, a district attorney spokeswoman. Sambora was sentenced to three years of informal probation, three months of first-offender alcohol awareness class and court fees. He also cannot have any measurable amount of drugs or

The 48-year-old musician was pulled over in Laguna Beach on March 25 after he was allegedly seen swerving and straddling two lanes. District attorney's spokeswoman Farrah Emami said Sambora's blood-alcohol level was .13 percent; the legal limit is .08 percent in California.

Is that Miley Cyrus flashing her bra on the 'Net?

NEW YORK (AP)—Is that Miley Cyrus flashing some skin?

Less-than-wholesome photos of a girl bearing a close resemblance to the 15-year-old superstar are making the rounds on the Internet.

One photo shows the Cyrus look-alike tugging at her white tank top to reveal a green bra. In another shot, she flaunts her bare midriff while draped over a young male, who rests his hand on her hip. Another shot shows her cuddling up to the same guy.

This isn't the first time risqué photos of someone resembling Cyrus have circulated online. In recent months, shots have surfaced of a girl posing in her underwear and bikini. The actress-singer's publicists Jill Frito and Meghan Prophet didn't return messages from The Associated Press seeking comment. An assistant to Cyrus' manager, Jason Morey, referred the AP to Prophet.

Sambora did not attend the hearing at the Orange County Superior Court, where his attorney, Blair Berk, entered the plea on his behalf. Berk confirmed the plea deal but declined to comment further.

Two children and a woman were in the car. The children were released to the woman's custody, and none of their names have been made public.

Police had asked the district attorney to file misdemeanor charges of child endangerment against Sambora as well, but Emami said prosecutors didn't have enough to make the case.

"The charge of DUI in itself indicates you have endangered yourself and others," she said. "There would have needed to be additional aggravating circumstances to charge that."



In this April 14, 2008 file photo singer and actress Miley Cyrus arrives at the 2008 CMT Awards in Nashville, Tenn. AP

Daughter hits glass ceiling in her own family's business

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I'm in my early 40s. I studied marketing and merchandising in college, but after graduation I chose to work in the family business. I married young, and my father hired my first husband so he could one day take over because I wasn't considered "man" enough to carry on this third-generation business.

I have spent the last 22 years learning this business inside and out. The employees respect me, and I have also gained respect within our industry. Although the number of women is still small, more and more women are involving themselves in this and related fields.

My day-in/day-out misery comes from my father. He is 72 and still works every day. He is old school. No matter how much money I make for this company or how much respect I gain from others, he will never acknowledge it. He constantly argues with me, and when he knows he's wrong, he walks out of the room. If I hear, "I have been doing this longer than you have" once more, I'll scream.

I would like to move on with my life -- meaning, get a new career. But being an only child in a family business that started in the 1920s, I feel trapped.

My ex- still works here, which is the company joke and the talk of the town. My birthday was last week, and Dad did not even wish me a happy birthday. Pretty sad for a man with one child he sees every day.

How can I find the strength to get on with my life?

—RUNNING OUT OF AIR

DEAR RUNNING: It shouldn't be difficult; consider the alternative. Your father will stay exactly where he is until he becomes incapacitated or dies—whichever comes first. You have not once mentioned a succession plan that includes you.

If you want to wind up working for the "company joke," stay where you are. If not, put out some feelers regarding opportunities in your industry. You say you are respected. You might be pleasantly surprised to find there are some attractive options.

DEAR ABBY: How can I make my husband understand that eating out every Sunday after church is not only a waste of money, but also makes going out for special occasions not as important as they could be? I try to explain that we could do something besides eat out, but he only wants to do that.

We spend anywhere from \$80 to \$100 each week on dinner out. My husband puts it on a credit card. Now, I'll admit that I'm not that "up" on how credit cards work, but I know we'll have to pay them off eventually. We don't have the kind of money to splurge every week. How should I deal with this?

—TIRED OF EATING OUT, HAMPTON, VA.

DEAR TIRED OF EATING OUT: Have another talk with your husband. If he is able to pay his credit card bills in full every month, then you should stop worrying. If he is not, then you are living beyond your means—a practice that has gotten many thousands of people in big financial trouble. And if that's the case, to assure your future you both need to agree upon a budget and reorganize your priorities.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

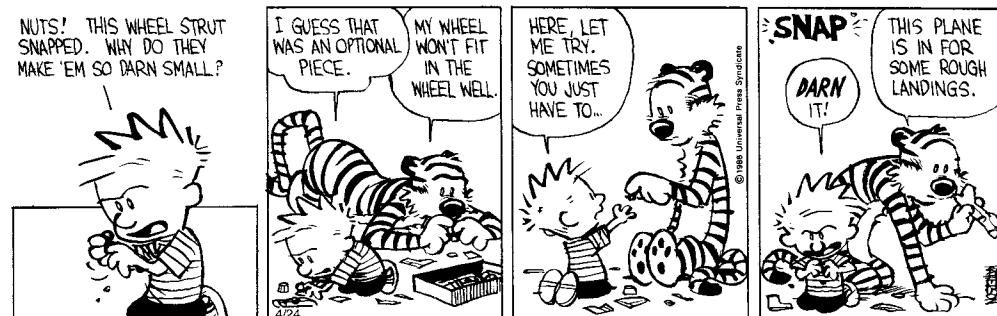
To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)



Dear Abby

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



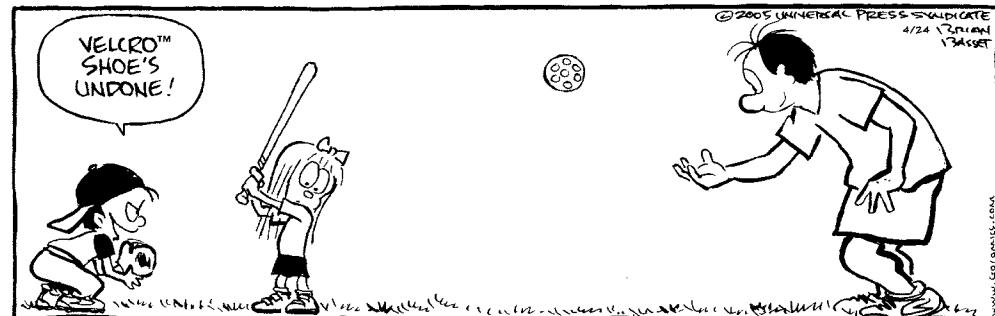
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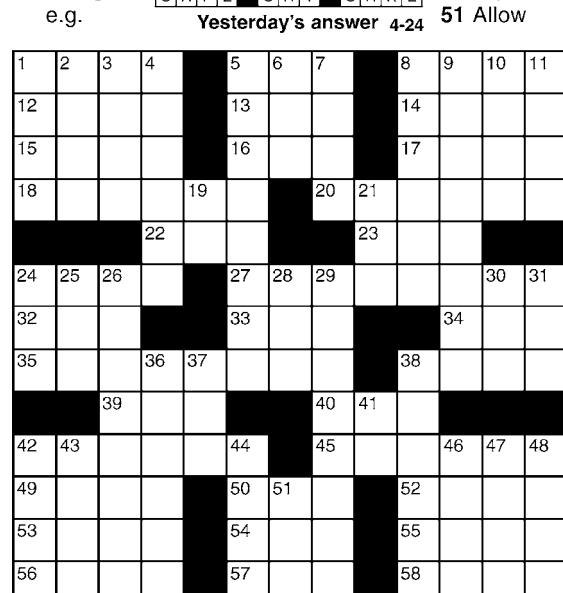


By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS									
1 Throw a football	39 Easter entree	DOWN	19 On the other hand						
5 Ever-green	40 "Let me think ..."	1 Carrots' mates	21 Carte lead-in						
8 Call a halt to	42 Clear	2 St. Louis attraction	24 Shriver of tennis						
12 Part of Q.E.D.	45 Handled roughly	3 Wrap dress	25 Sea urchin, sushi-style						
13 Onassis, familiarly	49 Sandwich treat	4 Inscribed pillar	5 Muslim women's veils						
14 Corridor	50 Actress MacGraw	52 One of the Jackson 5	6 Before						
15 Farm fraction	53 Much of succotash	54 Fellows	7 Accompanying						
16 Solidify	55 Squad	55 Capital of Uzbekistan	8 Scary "Psycho" scene						
17 Norway's capital	56 Dandling locale	57 Sch.	9 Capital type						
18 Civil War battle site in Tennessee	58 Christ-mas	10 —	30 Born						
20 Guffaw	59 Oxen's burden	59 podrida	31 AAA job						
22 Branch	60 —	61 —	36 "Scarface"						
23 Albanian money	62 —	62 —	37 Parisian pal						
24 Brownish purple	63 —	63 —	38 Obscene						
27 Obvious	64 —	64 —	41 Kettle or Bell						
32 Get — for effort	65 —	65 —	42 Tress						
33 Mauna —	66 —	66 —	43 Unyielding						
34 Ultra-modernist	67 —	67 —	44 Moist						
35 Picks the wrong actor	68 —	68 —	46 Stead						
38 Mulligan, e.g.	69 —	69 —	47 Handy pc. of Latin						
Solution time: 25 mins.									
Yesterday's answer 4-24									



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5951 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features Service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kelly Clarkson, 26; Eric Balfour, 31; Barbra Streisand, 66; Shirley MacLaine, 74

Happy Birthday: Focus on health and wealth this year. Relationships may need some adjustments. Your dedication and practical nature will be a winning combination. Take a look at an old situation and you will have the discernment to know how you should handle something you face now. Your numbers are 13, 22, 29, 37, 45, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Down time away from home will do you good. A new adventure will spark enthusiasm regarding an idea you once wanted to pursue. Mix your professional dealings with pleasure and you will score big.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Kids, elders and others you feel responsible for will help you out for a change. Money is heading your way but not through circumstances that you expect. Don't let uncertainty hold you back.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): If you have a good idea, talk to someone in a position to help. Money and work should be your focus, although love is likely to surface. However, a brief encounter will result in feeling shortchanged.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Speak of your plans, invite people to join you or push for a passionate evening with someone you love. It doesn't matter what you do—go about it honestly and with determination and you will succeed. Don't let someone fickle ruin your day.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Seize any opportunity you have to embrace something you enjoy doing. Falling for someone who can influence your future professionally is not a good idea. However, love is in a high cycle, so good things will happen.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): If someone is trying to make your life difficult, it's time to put an end to it. Precise communication will do the trick and, like it or not, whoever gets in your way will be sorry. Turn something you enjoy into a routine activity.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Look at the big picture, not the trivial little things that can consume your time. Give whatever you are working on a creative spin and you will grab the interest of someone you've been trying to spend more time with. Put effort into your home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A last-minute change can be expected. As long as you aren't caught off-guard, you can handle whatever comes your way. Just because someone else doesn't want to do what you are doing doesn't mean you can't.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Doing something creative will give you peace of mind. An emotional issue can be dealt with if you do so delicately but, if you let matters spin out of control, it will be impossible to fix. A love connection and a significant decision can be put into play.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't share secrets with anyone who may use them against you. Money, investments,

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
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fixing up your home or getting a loan or grant are all looking good if you start the process today. Spend time with family.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A new position or pastime will bring in extra cash. A closer bond with someone you care about can be achieved if you talk about old times and the memories and events you have shared together. Don't get angry with someone you work with.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The more erratic you are or the people around you are, the more difficult it will be to get things done. Settle down and get everyone on the same page. You need to get involved in a physical activity that will help you burn off steam.

Birthday Baby: You are magnetic and will handle whatever comes your way for good or for bad. You are a troubleshooter and the go-to person—the one everyone looks up to.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	7	5	1						
5	7	9	4						8
3									
2	9		1						
7									
6									
8	5	2	8						
7									
8	4		9						

Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	9	2	3	4	1	5	6	7
5	6	4	8	7	2	1	3	9
3	1	7	6	9	5	8	2	4
9	3	8	5	1	7	2	4	6
4	5	6	9	2	8	7	1	3
7	2	1	4	6	3	9	8	5
1	4	9	7	8	6	3	5	2
6	8	3	2	5	9	4	7	1
2	7	5	1	3	4	6	9	8

Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PAYING ONLINE

Solution: 6 letters

C	N	C	O	D	E	S	D	A	D	D	R	E	S	S
I	O	O	R	D	G	N	I	D	N	E	S	E	T	D
N	N	N	I	E	R	P	R	I	N	T	C	N	N	B
T	D	V	F	T	D	O	E	E	H	U	U	E	G	U
E	T	E	O	I	A	I	C	T	R	O	P	P	U	S
R	L	N	I	I	R	C	T	E	C	S	U	C	I	I
N	D	①	U	L	C	M	I	C	R	H	O	S	D	N
E	E	E	Ⓐ	O	P	E	A	L	E	M	E	E	E	E</

CLASSIFIED ADS


FOR SALE

1-bedroom/build-in 20ft container wall to wall carpet w/ 12BTU split-type aircon. \$3,500 or best offer/call Rose-233-1984, 8am-6pm



WHATZIT Solution:
The root of all evil

Retail store equipments & inventories.
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WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

PRIDE
COVETOUSNESS
LUST
ENVY
GLUTTONY
ANGER
SLOTH

Find today's solution in this section

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Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished
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Apartment Room for Rent
2 bed room \$230.00, Koblerville.
Contact: 288-0728.

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April 26 (Sat), 7:30am-. Place: Across the street from PIC. PIC employees got together to bring you this sale, everything must go! All sales will be forwarded to the Marianas March Against Cancer Fund.

NEED PROPERTIES

We are looking for all kinds of properties, vacant property, commercial building, house, or apartment for long term lease or for sale. Interested owners, please contact Rayanne @ Yuta Office. Tel. No. 234-3700

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)

	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$25
• 5-Liner	\$35
• 3-Liner with picture	\$45
• 5-Liner with picture	\$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	\$13.00
2nd position	\$5.00
Succeeding positions	\$2.00

These rates apply to all job vacancy announcements on Saipan that include corresponding benefits and positions that are all under the same company name and dba.

Newspaper clippings are also available for \$.25 per copy.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE
Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:

- *Saipan Tribune*: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

CANCELLATION
Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Classified Ads Super Saver Package
for Print and Online Editions

A complete 7-day run for car sales, employment, garage sales, apartment rentals, announcements, lost and found, business services, and more...

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\$25

3-LINER AD W/ PHOTO

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5-LINER AD

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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Seahawks release Shaun Alexander



KIRKLAND,

Wash. (AP)—

From MVP to vilified to unemployed in a little more than two years. Shaun Alexander's free fall in Seattle was completed Tuesday when the Seahawks cut the running back who led them to their only Super Bowl appearance in 2006 and was rewarded soon after with a \$62 million contract.

For Alexander, the two seasons since he received that eight-year deal have been filled with injuries, ineffectiveness and incessant boos.

"Yeah, it's sad, really," Seahawks president Tim Ruskell said while announcing the defending four-time NFC West champions released Alexander unconditionally, hours after the running back passed a physical.

Ruskell could've been talking about the Seattle fan's relationship with the always-smiling star, who earned a reputation for being a bit passive.

The 30-year-old Alexander went to three Pro Bowls, but was never the most beloved player on the Seahawks.

Sure, everyone loved Alexander during the 2005 season, when he set an NFL record with 28 touchdowns and a franchise mark of 1,880 yards rushing while leading the Seahawks to the Super Bowl and becoming the franchise's first MVP.

The Seahawks showed how



In this Jan. 22, 2006 file photo, Seattle Seahawks' Shaun Alexander holds up the trophy after his team beat the Carolina Panthers to win the NFC championship football game in Seattle.

fond they were of Alexander, giving him a \$62 million, eight-year contract with \$15.1 million guaranteed that agent Jim Steiner then said was the largest for a running back in league history.

Alexander was scheduled to earn \$4,475,000 this season on a deal that many around the league questioned at the time it was signed because 30 is an age at which NFL running backs often become shadows of their former great selves.

"The contract was set up that you wanted to get at least three years," Ruskell said. "So we didn't get there. That part is disappointing."

"I thought because Shaun had not been injured through his career, playing the odds I said ... 'If you are going to bet on a guy, bet on a guy who's not been hurt or had that propensity.' That was the case with Shaun."

But then he severely bruised his left foot while getting tackled in 2006 opener. He kept playing on it and soon broke it, the first major injury of his football career, and missed six games. Last season, he broke his left wrist in Week 1. In November, he missed three games with a sprained left knee.

The cutback lanes he used to create began closing on him faster than he could run. His trademark hesitation, which used to deftly set up blocks, suddenly just invited defenders to swarm him—and his

injured Placido Polanco.

home fans to boo. Coach Mike Holmgren said the injuries and having nowhere to run were the reasons for Alexander's his steep decline.

Even through his inglorious end in Seattle, Alexander kept the appearance that all was just fine—that this, too, didn't matter much in the larger context of his life.

"I want to thank the Seahawks and Holmgren for all they have done for me and my family over the years," Alexander said. "I have nothing but respect and affection for the Seahawks staff, my teammates and the organization. I wish them the best."

Then he fawned over the same fans who last season cheered as he jogged off the home field while getting replaced.

"I especially want to thank the Seahawks fans," he said. "You made me feel proud every time I stepped on the field as a member of the Seahawks. I look forward to hopefully returning to Qwest Field one day to play against the Seahawks."

"We have made far too many wonderful friends to say goodbye. My family will remain in the Seattle area, and when my days in the NFL do eventually come to an end, I plan to retire here. Our hearts are woven into the fabric of this community, we are blessed to be part of it, and we enjoy contributing to it in every way we can."

"Thank you Seattle."

Alexander called Ruskell constantly this offseason to discuss his status once the Seahawks signed free agent running backs Julius Jones and T.J. Duckett—the offseason moves that essentially sealed Alexander's Seattle fate.

He also called constantly to discuss doctors' reports on his surgically repaired left wrist from January, so Alexander and the team could stay up to date.

"It's been unique, really," Ruskell said, chuckling. "Every step of the way we've kept him informed ... we've been lock-step with Shaun all along."

Now, for the first time since they drafted him out of Alabama 19th overall in 2000, the Seahawks and Alexander going separate ways.

"It shows you how tough this game is, how ever-changing it is, how you can't play forever," Ruskell said. "You just can't do it."

Even though his last two seasons have been his worst, Alexander said he is not retiring.

"I will be playing for another NFL team this fall, and doing everything I can to contribute," said Alexander, who ran for 716 yards in 13 games last season—his lowest total as a full-time starter.

"I am healthy, energized and looking forward to beginning the next chapter of my NFL career."

Smoltz reaches 3,000 strikeouts in Braves' loss Nationals



ATLANTA(AP)—

J o h n
S m o l t z

became the 16th pitcher in major league history to reach 3,000 career strikeouts, but was outpitched by John Lannan in the Washington Nationals' 6-0 win over the Atlanta Braves on Tuesday.

Smoltz fanned Felipe Lopez in the third inning, the veteran hurler's fourth of the game, to reach the mark. He struck out 10 for the second straight start and for the 45th time in his 20-year career.

Lannan (1-2), a rookie, allowed five hits in seven innings and the Nationals snapped a three-game losing streak.

Phillies 8, Rockies 6

At Denver, Pat Burrell's bases-clearing double off Manny Corpas in the ninth inning helped Philadelphia sweep a two-game series against the team that swept them in the first round of the playoffs last season.

Corpas (0-1) was two outs away from the save when Burrell sent a 2-2 fastball past diving center fielder Willy Taveras in the gap in left-center.

That made a winner of Ryan Madson (1-0), who threw a scoreless eighth.

**Brewers 9,
Cardinals 8**

At Milwaukee, Gabe Kapler singled home the winning run with one out in the 12th inning and Milwaukee overcame another blown save by Eric Gagne to beat St. Louis.

The Brewers wasted a five-run lead before Kapler's hit. The Cardinals' loss came with an oddity: Slugger Albert Pujols wound up playing second base for the first time in his big league career.

Cubs 8, Mets 1

In Chicago, Ronny Cedeno hit a grand slam and drove in five runs, Ted Lilly won for the first time in five starts, and surging Chicago won for the 13th time in 16 games.

The Cubs, who were 7-13 at this point a season ago, had 14 hits and improved to 14-6, their best record after 20 games since 1975.

Pirates 3, Marlins 2

At Pittsburgh, Xavier Nady's two-run single completed a three-run comeback after a questionable call apparently cost Pittsburgh a run in the sixth inning as the Pirates ended a six-game losing streak by beating Florida.

Paul Maholm (1-2) limited

the Marlins to one run and four hits over six innings, ending a slide in which Pirates starting pitchers had an 11.38 ERA over the six games. The Marlins' three-game winning streak was also halted.

Reds 8, Dodgers 1

At Cincinnati, Jerry Hairston Jr. had four hits in his debut as Cincinnati's leadoff hitter, and Adam Dunn and Brandon Phillips each homered, leading the Reds over the Los Angeles.

After scoring only three runs over the weekend while getting swept in Atlanta, the Dodgers piled up 15 hits in a 9-3 win on Monday night. Hairston, batting .421 in the minors, was called up before that game, and got the Reds rolling a day later.

Astros 11, Padres 7

At Houston, Kaz Matsui's two-run single in the eighth inning lifted Houston to a win over the Padres.

Cy Young pitching award winner Jake Peavy allowed four earned runs, matching the total for his four previous starts combined. The Padres ace allowed seven hits with two walks and two strikeouts in six innings.

Diamondbacks 5, Giants 4

At Phoenix, Brandon Webb hit

a two-run double and improved to 5-0 as Arizona defeated San Francisco.

Webb, off to the best start of his career, beat San Francisco's Barry Zito (0-5) for the second time in six days. Webb's five victories match the total of the Giants' rotation. He allowed three runs and nine hits in six innings. He walked two and struck out a season-high seven.

Red Sox 7, Angels 6

At Boston, Dustin Pedroia's tiebreaking RBI double in the eighth inning helped the Boston Red Sox rally for their sixth straight win over the Los Angeles Angels after ace Josh Beckett was scratched from his start with a stiff neck.

Jacoby Ellsbury hit two solo homers and Kevin Youkilis added a two-run shot for Boston, while Pedroia went 4-for-5 with three doubles and a single.

Tigers 10, Rangers 2

At Detroit, Magglio Ordóñez homered and reached 1,000 RBIs for his career, and Ramón Santiago homered for the first time since 2003 and drove in three runs to help Detroit beat Texas.

Edgar Rentería had four hits for the Tigers, who have won six of nine. Santiago went 2-for-3 with three RBIs in place of the

injured Placido Polanco.

Rays 6, Blue Jays 4

At Kissimmee, Florida, Eric Hinske drove in two runs and finished a single shy of hitting for the cycle, helping Tampa Bay beat Toronto at Disney World.

Hinske doubled in the second inning and added a RBI triple off Jesse Litsch (2-1) in the fourth before leading off the sixth with a solo homer—his sixth of the season—off reliever Jesse Carlson.

Indians 15, Royals 1

At Kansas City, Missouri, Casey Blake had a grand slam and six RBIs and C.C. Sabathia struck out 11 in his first victory, leading Cleveland to a rout of slumping Kansas City.

Blake, the No. 9 hitter, was 4-for-4 with a grand slam, a single and two RBI doubles to pace the Indians' 17-hit attack. David Dellucci and Jhonny Peralta also homered and Franklin Gutierrez had a three-run double for Cleveland, which came in with the 10th-worst run total and lowest slugging percentage in the league.

Twins 5, Athletics 4

At Oakland, California, Jason Kubel hit a go-ahead bloop single in the eighth, and Craig Monroe drove in three runs and homered for the first time this season in Minnesota's victory over Oakland.

A's starter Joe Blanton (1-4) remained winless at home in 2008, dropping to 0-4 in the Coliseum. The A's had their three-game winning streak snapped.

Parker scores 32 points as Spurs take 2-0 lead



SAN ANTONIO
(AP)—Another big comeback by the San Antonio Spurs. Now the Phoenix Suns will need one.

Tony Parker scored 32 points to lead the Spurs to a 102-96 victory in Game 2 on Tuesday night after the Suns gave away another double-digit, first-half lead.

The Spurs needed a few amazing shots and the benefit of foul trouble for Phoenix in Game 1 to win that one in two overtimes. On Tuesday, the Spurs were down by as many as 14 in the first half before outscoring Phoenix 27-11 in a breakout third quarter.

The Spurs still had to withstand a fourth-quarter surge that got the Suns within five points with 14 seconds to play, but the defending champions now head to Arizona for Friday's Game 3 with a 2-0 lead and home-court advantage in tact.

Amare Stoudemire led the Suns with 33 points but struggled after halftime, when he shot 2-of-11 from the field.

The Spurs went up by as many as 17 points in the fourth quarter after taking control in the third. But Steve Nash led a 10-0 run to bring Phoenix within 96-91 with 2:44 left on the clock.

Tim Duncan, who finished with 18 points and 17 rebounds, had a monster dunk with 1:47 to play and Parker followed with a bucket to put San Antonio back up 101-93.

Then Stoudemire hit just his sixth 3-pointer of the season with 14 seconds left—a la Duncan's game-saving 3 in Game 1—to make it 101-96. After that the Suns resorted to fouling and it was too late.

Nash had 23 points and 10 assists for the Suns. Shaquille O'Neal had 19 points and 14 rebounds.

Manu Ginobili, who won the NBA's sixth man award on Monday, scored 29 points for San Antonio.

The Suns had five turnovers in the third quarter and went just 3-of-18 in the period, leaving them with an 81-72 deficit with a quarter to play.

Ginobili hit his third 3 of the

game early in the fourth and Parker followed, weaving his way through orange-shirted defenders and to the basket for a layup that put San Antonio up 86-73 with 10:40 to play.

Another score by Parker put the Spurs up 94-77 before the Suns started chipping away. O'Neal hit one of two from the line and Nash's dead-on 3 brought Phoenix within 94-81.

Parker pushed the Spurs back up by 15 before Nash led the run that threatened the Spurs' victory.

Grant Hill, who has been

bothered by a groin injury and wasn't 100 percent for Game 1, played less than 20 minutes in Game 2 and didn't score.

The Suns shot 61 percent in the first half but couldn't sustain it. The Spurs cut the lead each time before Phoenix could build it back up.

O'Neal didn't get into foul trouble on Tuesday the way he did in Game 1, and it showed. He played more than 18 minutes in the first half and had four blocks and 11 points.

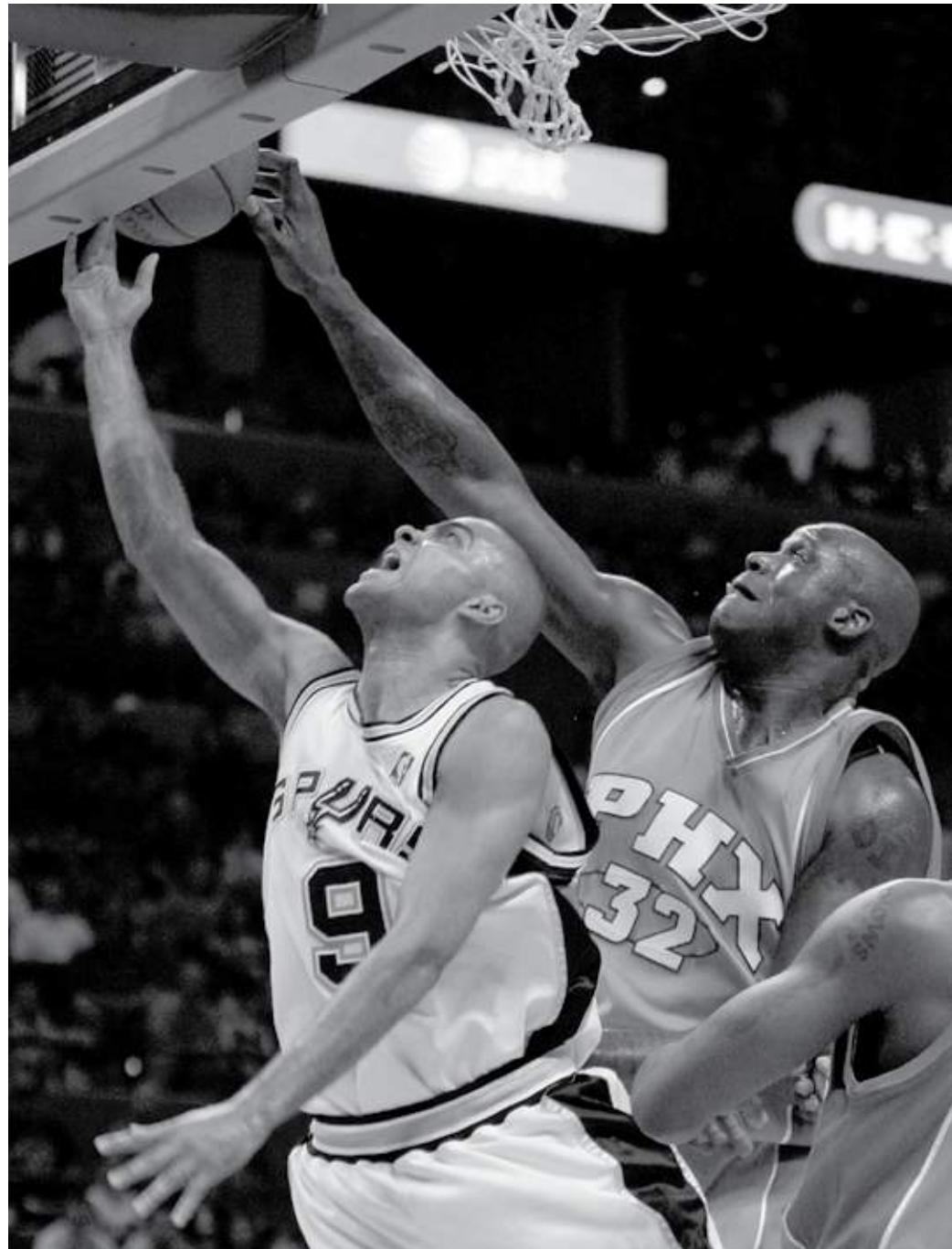
And Stoudemire could neither

miss nor be stopped. He was 11-of-14 from the field, penetrating the paint and hitting jumpers for 25 first-half points.

But the Spurs came within striking distance by adopting the Suns' quick game. San Antonio had 18 fast-break points, led by Parker and Ginobili, in the half to the Suns' two.

The Suns led 61-54 at the break.

Michael Finley started the third quarter with eight points of an 11-0 Spurs run and tied the score at 61 with a mid-range jumper.



San Antonio Spurs guard Tony Parker (9), of France, shoots against Phoenix Suns center Shaquille O'Neal (32) during the first quarter in Game 2 of an NBA Western Conference playoff basketball series in San Antonio, Tuesday, April 22, 2008.

Garnett wins defensive player award

WALTHAM, Mass. (AP)—When Kevin Garnett starts screaming, the Celtics' defense stops struggling. For all his assets—athleticism, intensity, intelligence—it's the ability to communicate with teammates that he considers the key to Boston's skill at shutting down opponents.

"I talk. I understand how defense works," he said after being selected the NBA defensive player of the year Tuesday. "Communication's probably the biggest thing when it comes to defense."

An outstanding defender throughout his previous 12 sea-

sons, all with Minnesota, Garnett won the league award for the first time by a wide margin one day before Boston takes a 1-0 lead into Game 2 of the first-round series against Atlanta.

He had 90 of the 124 first-place votes and a total of 493 points. Marcus Camby of Denver, last year's winner, was second with 12 first and 178 points, just edging Shane Battier of Houston, who received 11 first-place votes and 175 points.

"Any award you're able to acquire in this league is a big deal," said Garnett, who would much prefer his first NBA cham-

pionship. "At the end of the day, it's about winning."

The 6-foot-11, long-armed forward is the major factor behind the Celtics' climb from a mediocre defensive team to perhaps the best in the league. They held opponents to an NBA-low 41.9 field goal percentage after allowing them to hit 46.8 percent of their shots last season. And they allowed just 90.3 points per game, second-fewest in the league, after giving up 99.2 last year.

No surprise, then, that Boston improved from 24-58 last season to 66-16, the NBA's best record, after trading for

Garnett last summer.

"He's changed our culture defensively," coach Doc Rivers said. "That's the most important thing, just the team part of it. Individually, he's been fantastic, but I think his presence for the team is what stood out."

Paul Pierce was surprised that Garnett hadn't won the award before.

"He's been the class of the NBA defensively for a long time now," Pierce said. "He just anchors our defense. He controls the paint, blocks shots, a lot of things that don't show up in the stat sheet, with his talking."

The Suns came out looking disorganized and missed eight consecutive shots. They didn't score until 5:35 was left in the third quarter off Nash's fadeaway jumper.

The Spurs went up by 71-63 when Duncan, posted under the basket, passed to an open Ime Udoka for an easy layup.

Hornets 127, Mavericks 103

At New Orleans, Chris Paul had 32 points and a franchise playoff-record 17 assists, leading New Orleans to a 2-0 lead over Dallas in their first-round series.

David West scored 27 points and Peja Stojakovic 22 for New Orleans, which took a double-digit lead in the second quarter, led by as much as 25 in the third and never looked back.

Tyson Chandler had his second double-double of the series with 10 points and 11 rebounds, despite playing with foul trouble. Morris Peterson added 12 points and reserve guard Jannero Pargo had 10 for New Orleans, which was 10-of-18 on 3-pointers, with Stojakovic hitting 5-of-7.

Former Sonics owner sues to rescind sale of team

SEATTLE (AP)—Former SuperSonics owner Howard Schultz filed suit Tuesday to undo his sale of the team to an Oklahoma City-based group led by Clay Bennett, saying Bennett lied to him by insisting he planned to keep the NBA franchise in Seattle.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court, seeks to deprive Bennett's group of "the fruits of its deception" by rescinding the sale, and described Bennett's actions as "fraud." Schultz and his co-owners never would have sold the Sonics if they thought the new owners would move them out of town, the complaint said.

Starbucks Corp. Chairman Schultz is asking a judge to hold the team in trust until an "honest buyer" can be found who will keep the team in Seattle.

A spokesman for Bennett declined to comment Tuesday.

Bennett's Professional Basketball Club bought the team from Schultz in July 2006, and Bennett publicly insisted he planned to keep the Sonics in Seattle. On July 16 of that year, he wrote a side letter to Schultz denying any intentions to move the Sonics or the WNBA's Seattle Storm: "It is our desire to have the Sonics and Storm continue their existence in the Greater Seattle area," Bennett wrote, according to Schultz's complaint.

"That statement was false from the moment it was made," Seattle attorney Richard C. Yarmuth wrote in the complaint. "The Oklahoma City group's true intention ... was to move the team to Okla-

Dirk Nowitzki led Dallas with 27 points, but spent most of the night looking frustrated, yelling at no one in particular after he threw one pass out of bounds. Brandon Bass was another bright spot for Dallas, muscling inside for 19 points. Reserve Jason Terry added 16 points and Josh Howard scored 10.

Magic 104, Raptors 103

At Orlando, Florida, Dwight Howard had 29 points and 20 rebounds, his second straight 20-20 game, and Orlando took a 2-0 lead over Toronto in their first-round playoff series.

Chris Bosh had 29 points and 10 rebounds for Toronto, but missed a 19-footer with 1.9 seconds left that could have won the game. Jason Kapono scored 20 points, Jose Calderon had 18 and Carlos Delfino added 16 for the Raptors, who host Game 3 on Thursday.

Jameer Nelson and Rashard Lewis each scored 18 for Orlando. Hedo Turkoglu made the go-ahead layup and finished with 12 points and nine rebounds.

homa City at the earliest possible time."

The complaint also disclosed the existence of an e-mail from Bennett to his co-owners two days before the sale, saying that if a new arena deal was reached to keep the Sonics in Seattle, the Professional Basketball Club could just sell the team in a "sweet flip," and still leave the ownership group "in good shape for something in OKC."

"This recently discovered e-mail makes clear that the Oklahoma City group never intended to own a team that would continue playing in Seattle," the complaint said.

The NBA's Board of Governors voted last Friday to approve the Sonics' move to Oklahoma. When asked that day about the possibility of a lawsuit by Schultz, Bennett said: "Well, I operated in good faith and that will be vetted through the trial and be clear. And further, I was disappointed because I've had a nice relationship with Howard, and I have not spoken with him about this issue, and I made a commitment to him personally, as well, that was meaningful to me and I hail to that commitment."

Bennett's group is also facing two other hurdles in its efforts to move the Sonics: a federal lawsuit brought by the city of Seattle, seeking to force the team to remain at KeyArena through the end of its lease in 2010; and a federal lawsuit brought by fans who say they were duped into buying season tickets under the premise the team would stay.

15th Silver Streak set for June 14

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



The Silver Streak, the fun run that memorializes the late president of DFS Galleria Saipan, returns this June 14.

According to DFS Galleria Saipan associate store manager Wolf Mojica the 15th Annual

Tom Picarro Memorial Fun Run will have a start time of 6am following a 5am to 5:55am registration time.

“It is that time of the year again when we begin to plan for the 15th Annual Silver Streak. The fun run memorializes our former president Tom Picarro, who served from 1979 to 1992. He used to run along Beach Road waving to passers by. He

had a great head of white hair and that is where we got the name Silver Streak,” he said.

Wolf said prizes will be awarded to the top male and female finishers as well as first, second, and third place in eight age groups. The fun run will start at the DFS Galleria Saipan’s main entrance along Beach Road.

The DFS Galleria Saipan executive added that entry fee is

\$10 and registration forms are available at the DFS Galleria Customer Information Counter and payments can be made Monday through Friday, 8am-12pm and 1pm-5pm at the finance office.

While proceeds from the Silver Streak will go to a local charity, DFS Galleria Saipan will still give away T-shirts and tank tops for the first 175 finish-

ers. Drinks, water, and fruits will also be provided to participants.

For more information about the Silver Streak, call Wolf Mojica at 236-2540 or Marida Pensader at 236-2530.

Last year, 130 runners between the ages of one and 77 years old took part in the Silver Streak.

Track star Nate Mateo and Mamiko Oshima were the most fleet afoot on as the duo captured the men’s and women’s title with respective times of 26:46 and 28:58.

Among the top males were age division winners Andrew Kimball (5-10), Mathew Manca (11-20), Jerson Villamor (21-30), Tamio Nishikido (31-40), Sathiya Kalarikkal (41-50), Chang Whan Jang (51-60), Bruce MacMillan (61-70), and ageless wonder John Joyner of the 71-and-over category.

The fastest women age groupers were youngster Soleil Lamar (5-10), Melissa Halaby (11-20), former PIC Clubmate Mieko Carey (21-30), triathlete Kimiko Hasegawa (31-40), Irma Halaby (41-50), the unstoppable Monica Yamaguchi (51-60), Aenaida Tydingco (61-70), and Donna White (71-Over).

Pals rain record treys on Express

MANILA, Philippines—There was—and even its coach had to admit it—no way that Talk ‘N Text was going to lose this one.

The Phone Pals rewrote the league’s record books by combining for 23 triples Tuesday night on the way to manhandling a badly outclassed Air21 crew, 116-99, and sustaining their climb in the Smart PBA Fiesta Cup leaderboard.

The Phone Pals’ scorching performance at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City helped them climb to third place in the standings after a second straight victory pegged their record at 4-2.

“Wow!” exclaimed coach Chot Reyes after the game, when informed of the 23-of-39 shooting of his wards, who actually came into the game shorthanded with Jay Washington out because of a foot injury. “If you shoot that way, it’s hard to lose.”

Overshadowed by that swashbuckling Talk ‘N Text show was a 95-88 victory by Coca-Cola over Sta. Lucia Relativity in the second game, one that put the Tigers alone on top

with a 5-1 card going into the All-Star break.

Nic Belasco draining his only points for the night—a three-pointer—to give Coca-Cola a 93-88 lead in the last 14.1 seconds. The Realtors took a second straight loss in a 3-2 card.

Talk ‘N Text made shooting from afar look so easy Tuesday night that the Phone Pals actually made more three-pointers than they did two-point field goals or free throws—probably the first time this has happened in the rich history of the 33-year-old league.

The Phone Pals hit just 19-of-47 two-point attempts and were good for only 9-of-16 free throws.

The 23 triples easily eclipsed the 18 shared by two Presto teams powered by Allan “The Triggerman” Caidic. In both instances, Caidic made a bulk of the Presto output.

The league legend made the all-time individual record of 17 in a 162-149 victory over Ginebra on Nov. 21, 1991. Before that, Caidic, now an assistant

coach at Barangay Ginebra, drained 15 triples in a 175-159 Presto win over Alaska on Nov. 2, 1988. Those individual feats still rank as 1-2 all-time.

Jimmy Alapag led this latest assault from beyond the arc, making seven triples as he missed only two shots from that area. Don Allado and Renren Ritualo had four each. Mac Cardona had three triples while Yancy de Ocampo, Younis Aljamal and Donbel Belano added one each.

Talk ‘N Text got a bad break in the second half when import Aaron McGhee had to be carried out of the floor because of a badly twisted ankle. By then, however, the 6-foot-9 import had already scored 16 points—including two triples—in just 17 minutes.

All in all, only four of the 12 players that Reyes utilized failed to score a triple—and only because they didn’t take an attempt.

Air21 dropped to 2-3.

Meanwhile, the league’s Commissioner’s Office fined

Alaska import Randy Holcomb P20,000 and suspended him for a game after a flagrant foul on Red Bull’s Rich Alvarez in an out-of-town game Saturday. The Barako won that match, 100-97.

First Game

Talk ‘N Text 116 — Alapag 25, Cardona 17, McGhee 16, Allado 15, Ritualo 14, De Ocampo 12, Peek 7, Carey 4, Aljamal 3, Belano 3, Chia 0, Lao 0.

Air21 99 — Thomas 21, Canaleta 16, Se 16, Billones 13, David 10, Arboleda 8, Santos 7, Kramer 4, Cruz 4, De Ocampo 0, Sotto 0.

Quarters: 26-23, 62-43, 85-66, 116-99

Second Game

Coca-Cola 95 — Dixon 27, Gervin 18, Buenafe 15, Macapagal 12, Cabagnot 7, Telan 5, Taulava 4, Belasco 3, Enrile 2, Dimaunahan 2.

Sta. Lucia 88 — Wilson 22, Omolon 18, Williams 17, Reyes 10, Mendoza 8, Miranda 4, Aquino 4, Yeo 3, Espino 2, Gonzales 0.

Quarters: 17-18, 44-37, 64-64, 93-88. (PDI)

Patrick Reyes also made a significant contribution going 2-for-3 and blasting a two-run inside-the-park home run in the Pirates’ four-run fourth inning rally. He also scored three times in the game.

Hustlers 11, Ol’Aces 5 A.J. Lizama pitched 5 2/3 innings and went 2-for-4 at the plate to help the UMDA Hustlers beat the Happy Market Ol’Aces on Tuesday.

Lizama gave up two earned runs on seven hits with seven strikeouts and two walks before being replaced by Raymund Saralu after reaching the 85-pitch count.

Saralu replaced Lizama after the Hustlers’ starter struck out Shane Guerrero. Saralu gave up a single to Jesse Brel but the Hustlers defense stepped up forcing

the Ol’Aces runner on a 4-6 putout play for the second out.

Saralu then walked Keola Camacho but he was caught on a 5-4 putout play while trying to steal second base.

Lizama scored twice and had an RBI while Jesus Mafnas went 2-for-2 with a double.

Patriots 30, Athletics A’s 3

Defending champion SaipanCell Patriots showed how determined they are of keeping the title coasting to a 30-3 win over the Tan Holdings Athletics A’s last Saturday.

Jared Sablan, Jun Rabauliman, Chris Mizer, and Jaime Manglona went perfect at the plate to lead the Patriots’ 30-for-37 batting. Sablan and Rabauliman went 5-for-5 while Mizer went 4-for-4 and Man-

glona, 3-for-3.

Sablan scored four times, had a double, a triple, and a two-run inside-the-park home run in his third at bat in the Patriots’ 22-run second inning scoring barrage to go with his six RBIs while Rabauliman had three runs and a two-run shot in the second.

Mizer had four runs, two doubles, and two RBIs while Manglona scored four runs, two RBIs and a solo shot in the second inning.

Brett Halstead joined in the hit parade going 2-for-3 with three runs, and an RBI. He also homered for the Patriots belting a two-run inside-the-parker in their 22-run second inning.

The Patriots’ bullpen gave up one run pitching four innings of one-hit ballgame fanning eight and walking eight more batters.

first season in the men’s league, earned the golden boot trophy for scoring nine goals against the other five teams this year.

The league referees were also honored during the ceremony with organizers and players thanking them for their fare of

ficiating. The referees received medals and a special thank you note.

NMIFA Men’s Football League director Michael Thomas said they would be holding a tournament in May while the next season opens in July.

FRANKIES

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rule this season where a pitcher needs to be replaced after reaching the limit of pitches thrown.

Camacho came in with one out and runners at second and third. He also came in after Norita allowed Vincent Leon Guerrero score on a pass ball and gave up consecutive walks to Joey Dueñas and Joseph Taitano.

Norita caught Sean Castro looking retiring the Lions’ second baseman for the first out.

That was enough for Camacho to earn the save as he forced Dela Cruz to fly out to center fielder Austin Deleon Guerrero then made Justin Santos hit an infield fly that third baseman Jonah Flores caught for the third out that ended the game.

INTER

From Page 28

sportsmanship award, placed third after having a 4-3-2 mark.

Onwel took the sportsmanship trophy after being well or-

ganized and respected the referees’ calls, and were courteous to other players and the fans.

Ol’Aces was awarded the Most Improved Team after showing great improvement in the nine games they played this season.

Joe Miller, who was playing his

first season in the men’s league, earned the golden boot trophy for scoring nine goals against the other five teams this year.

The league referees were also honored during the ceremony with organizers and players thanking them for their fare of

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	15	7	.682	—
Baltimore	11	9	.550	3
New York	11	10	.524	3 1/2
Toronto	10	11	.476	4 1/2
Tampa Bay	9	11	.450	5

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	11	8	.579	—
Minnesota	10	10	.500	1 1/2
Kansas City	9	11	.450	2 1/2
Cleveland	8	12	.400	3 1/2
Detroit	8	13	.381	4

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	12	9	.571	—
Oakland	12	9	.571	—
Seattle	11	10	.524	1
Texas	7	14	.333	5

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Florida	12	8	.600	—
New York	10	9	.526	1 1/2
Philadelphia	11	10	.524	1 1/2
Atlanta	10	10	.500	2
Washington	6	15	.286	6 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB

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15 bikers win divisions in Jazy Cup



Participants of the Saipan leg of the Jazy Cup Tour de Marianas pose for a group photo prior to the start of the race.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fifteen bikers won their respective divisions in the Jazy Cup Tour de Marianas Cycling Road Race Series last April 13 around Saipan.

The Saipan leg was the first stage of the two-stage cycling race series that ends on Guam next week. The final stage will have two parts—a time trial on

May 3 from Adelup and back and a road race on May 4 from Agana Shopping Center and back.

The Saipan leg was divided into an expert, composed of two loops around the island, and a short course of one lap around Beach Road.

Matthew Mancao topped the junior expert class with Eli Torgeson leading the way in the submaster category. Butch Sublemente and Bobby Mandapat placed second

and third to Torgeson.

Joseph Husslein and Cesar Fortaleza were the Top 2 finishers in the Master category, while Renato Calage, who was part of a team that won the relay division in last month's XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman triathlons, bested David Mair and Manny Sitchon in the Senior division.

Chiyo Lombard was the lone female that joined the expert class.



Participants of the Saipan leg of the Jazy Cup Tour de Marianas line up at the starting line.

Brian Tsui won the short course junior division with Arvin Hubalde and Tamo Nishikido finishing 1-2 in the submaster class.

In the mountain bike division, Albart Cataina was the winner in the submaster while Philip Gaulung, Cenon San Pablo, Shogo Ando, and Erwin Aquino conquered the master class.

Willy Barbo, Fred Camacho, and Joshua Berger were the finishers in the senior division, while Kimiko Hasegawa (sub-

master) and Gayle Martin (senior) were the female finishers in the short course.

Jeffrey Dyco and Gary Bandajon finished the male short course's mountain bike division, while Cenon San Pablo, Larry Malig, and Bernard Laborce were the Top 3 finishers in the master category.

Rogelio Valdez was the senior division winner in the mountain bike.

Jazy Cup organizers thanked all the bikers, sponsors, and volunteers that helped them in the race. Take Care, Mair, Mair, Spade & Thompson, Tan Holdings, and MR Imaging Group sponsored the race.

Organizers also thanked volunteers, Alex Gozon and family, Ronald Villafria, Romy Lanuza, John Sobredo, Atty. Danny Aguilar, Rosel Torres, Oscar San Agustin, and all Saipan bikers.

13 teams to join govt caging



Thirteen teams have already showed interest in joining the 2008 season of the Inter-Government Basketball League, which opens on May 5, Monday, 6pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The 13-team field is led by defending champion Office of the Public Auditor and last year's runner-up Northern Marianas College-Proa.

The other 11 squads are Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Commonwealth Health Center, Department of Corrections, Airport Rescue Fire Fighters, Tinian, Aguaguan, Ports Police, Legislature, Fire, Department of Public Works/Procurement and Supply, and Mayor's Office.

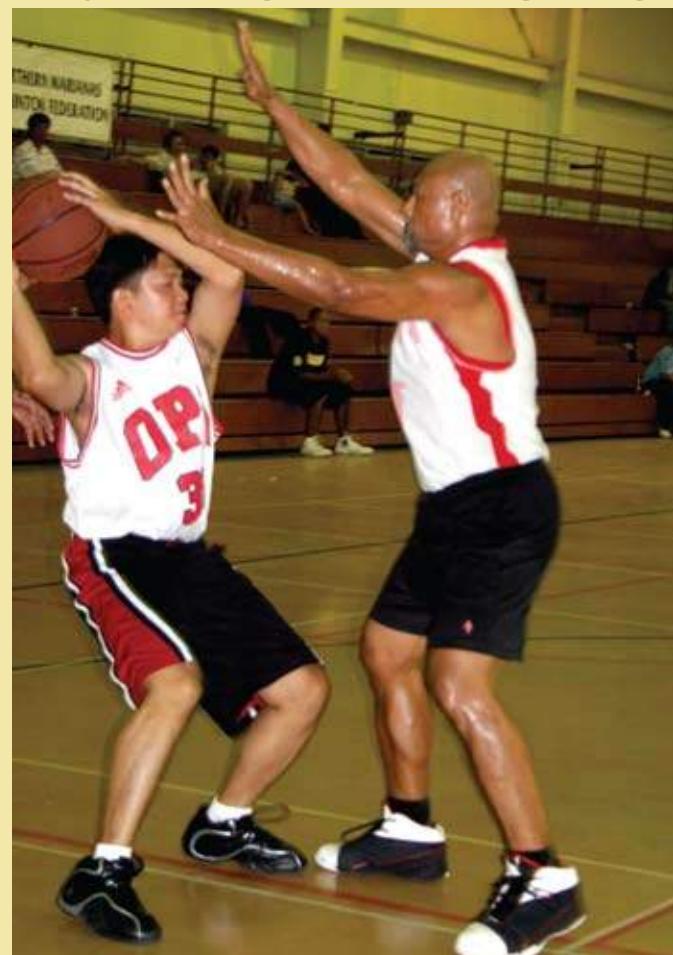
The tournament will follow a single round-robin format with the Top 8 teams advancing to the double-elimination round playoffs.

The entrance fee for the league is \$500 per team with checks made payable to the Division of Sports and Recreation.

League coordinator Joey Dela Cruz said the deadline for submission of team rosters and the entrance fee is at 4:30pm on April 30, Wednesday.

Games will be played every Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays with the first and second games scheduled at 6:30pm and 8pm.

Last year, OPA defeated



JON PEREZ

Northern Marianas College-Proa's Rufino Aguon, right, defends Office of the Public Auditor's Everly Pangelinan in last year's finals of the Inter-Government Basketball League.

NMC-Proa, 2-1, in their three-game series.

Proa opened the race-to-two title match with an 82-79 win in Game 1 but OPA bounced back with a 76-63 victory to force a rubber.

OPA then did not let the op-

portunity slip away from their hands and scored a 99-82 rout of NMC Proa in Game 3 to wrap up the series.

For more information about the government basketball league, call Dela Cruz at 664-2503. (Jon Perez)

Club Elan 5K run on Saturday

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Hyatt Regency Saipan's Club Elan will again host the Club Elan 5K Fun Run on Saturday, April 26, at the American Memorial Park.

The annual fun run will have competitions in men's and women's open, men's and women's 30-39, men's and women's 40-and-over, 18-and-under, 12-and-under, and 8-and-under.

The distance for adults is 5K while the kids will have a shorter course of 1K and 2K.

Kids 12-and-under will check in at 6am and start the race at 6:30am while the adults check in at 6:30am and start at 7am.

The awards presentation will be held at 11:30am at the Hyatt garden poolside.

Pre-registration fees, before 5pm on April 25, is \$12 for Club Elan members, \$15 for non-members, and \$10 for children under 12 years old. The fees go up to \$15 for Club Elan members and \$20 for non-members on race day.

The entry fee includes an event T-shirt, full usage of Club Elan facilities (main pool and towels) for the day and after the event.

Last year, Cooper Schraudenbach and Akiko Hagiwara were the first to the finish with times of 20:10 and 20:55.

In age group competition, the male and female division winners were Irineo Isip (23:51), Sathiyan Kalarikkal (23:50s), Alexander Racoma (24:41), Kimiko Hasegawa (26:50), and Andrea Ozawa (32:30).

In the shorter course for the kids division, Talia Trianni came in with a time of 14:58, followed by Julian Hrbek (18:52).

For more information about the Club Elan 5K Fun Run, call 234-1234 ext. 25.

NYBA moves U16 league meeting today



Organizers of the upcoming Northern Youth Basketball Association 16-and-under league moved the scheduled Monday coaches meeting to today, April 24, 6:30pm at the Marianas Health Services office in middle road.

League coordinator Joe Diaz said they are requesting coaches of all participating teams to attend the meeting in order for their squad to be included in the list and schedule this season.

The 16-and-under league will have three divisions namely Division I, 12-and-under;

Division II, 14-and-under; and Division III, 16-and-under.

The league is set to open on April 28 at 5pm at the Garapan Basketball Court across from the Bank of Guam.

Two games will be held every Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays with makeup games to be played every Saturday. The first game will start at 5:30pm and the second game follows at 7pm.

The entrance fee is \$100 per team and a maximum of 14 teams is allowed in each division.

Last year, the G-Stars, G-Rollers, and San Antonio Sixers won their respective

division titles against separate opponents.

Jericho Cruz scored 29 points to lead G-Stars to a 97-72 rout of G-Rollers in the 16-and-under division, while J.R. Concepcion tallied 19 markers to help G-Rollers to win the 14-and-under title with a 72-56 dumping of the Southern Sonics.

In the Under-12 division, Roxanne Duenas scored 10 of her 14 points in the first half as the Sixers held on to a 34-33 victory over G-Rollers.

For more information, call Roslyn Leon Guerrero at 483-5672 or Joe Diaz at 233-4646. (Jon Perez)



15 bikers win divisions in Jazy Cup

Fifteen bikers won their respective divisions in the Jazy Cup Tour de Marianas Cycling Road Race Series last April 13 on the roads of Saipan.

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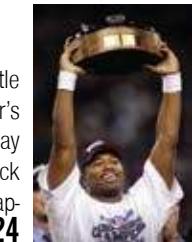
28 THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2008

Saipan Tribune Sports

Seahawks release Shaun Alexander

From MVP to vilified to unemployed in a little more than two years. Shaun Alexander's free fall in Seattle was completed Tuesday when the Seahawks cut the running back who led them to their only Super Bowl appearance in 2006.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Frankies deliver as Pirates beat Lions

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Frankie Camacho and Frankie Norita joined hands to help the Kautz Glass Pirates pull off an 11-6 win over the Kagman Little Lions in yesterday's Majors division game in the Saipan Little League at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

Camacho went perfect at the plate going 4-for-4 with four runs, three doubles, a triple, and two RBIs. He had an RBI triple in the third and a fifth inning RBI double.

Norita earned his stripes on the mound scattering six hits in 5 2/3 innings of work. He also gave up two earned runs while striking out 11 batters and walking three more.

Camacho relieved him when Catalina Dela Cruz was up to bat in the top of the sixth after Norita reached the 85-pitch count limit. The Little League has implemented the pitch count

See FRANKIES on Page 26



JON PEREZ

Kautz Glass Pirates' Frankie Camacho, left photo, connects on a third inning RBI triple while Frankie Norita winds up a pitch in their game yesterday against the Kagman Little Lions of Reps. Ed Salas and Rosmond Santos in the Majors division of the Saipan Little League at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.

Rezne, eight junior tankers off to Guam

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Tsunami SAIPAN

Rezne Wong and eight junior swimmers from the Tsunami

Federation Long Course Meet in Saturday morning, while the club's eight "rookie" tankers will take part in the 2008 Guam Short Course Championships in the afternoon.

Tsunami Saipan's junior swimmers are led by 11-year-

Kimura said Wong, the club's and the CNMI's top swimmer, will try to break a number of CNMI age group records in the Long Course Meet.

"This meet is the final chance for him before his 17th birthday. Rezne's goal is to swim well in the Guam Championships at the end of next month," said Kimura. Wong is enrolled at the Marianas High School.

The Short Course Championships, meanwhile, is expected to give much needed seasoning to the club's youngest and most inexperienced swimmers, according to Kimura.

"This meet is for rookies (inexperienced or young). Tsunami Saipan thinks swim meets like these encourage young swimmers very much."

He added that Tsunami Saipan's junior swimmers have been training and preparing for the Short Course Championships the past six months.

"I can say this meet is our



Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's junior swimmers are seen here posing at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi. The eight tankers will take part in this weekend's 2008 Guam Short Course Championships.

Swimming Center Saipan will take part in two swim meets this weekend in Guam.

Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura said Wong will compete in the Guam Swim-

old Kaisei Toda and include Fumika Umeda (12), Sugie Takumi (9), Ritsuki Umeda (9), Kosei Toda (8), Kaito Yanai (8), Daisuke Filial (8), and Ryosuke Toda (7).

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Inter wins NMIFA men's championship

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Inter-Godfather's caped their 2008 Men's Winter Football League season with the title in tow after having the most wins in the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's first league for the year.

Inter-Godfather's won the title after having the most wins.

It came out on top this season with the most wins in the six-team field, compiling a league-best 7-1-1 win-loss-draw record to receive the NMIFA Men's League Cup.

The award ceremony was held last Saturday where other teams and top performers of the past season were also honored as well as the tournament officials.

FC Arirang took runner-up honors with a 6-2-1 slate while Onwel, which also earned the

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of Inter-Godfather's raise the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Men's League Cup in last Saturday's award ceremony.

3 new teams for AsPac meet in Hong Kong

By JON PEREZ
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CNMI District Administrator James Ada said three new teams will be added in this year's Asia-Pacific Little League Regional Tournament, which takes place from July 18 to 25 in Hong Kong Disneyland.

Ada said Singapore, Australia, and India will be added to the nine other teams in the Asia and Pacific pools, hiking the number of competing countries in the Asia-Pacific pool to 12.

Singapore and Australia will join the CNMI, Guam, Indonesia, New Zealand, and the Philippines in the Pacific pool, while India will be the new addition in the Asia division joining powerhouse Taiwan and Korea, and Hong Kong and Thailand.

The addition of the three new teams prompted Little League organizers to move one week later the scheduled opening of the Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament. The tournament was scheduled to open on July 11 but was moved to July 18.

Ada said the tournament format will remain the same with each pool playing a single round robin. The tournament semifinals will slightly change with the addition of the three new teams.

Ada said they are proposing that the top two teams in each pool advance to the crossover semifinal phase with the winners moving on to the Asia-Pacific Regional finals.

The winner of the Asia-Pacific finals will represent the division moving on to the Little League World Series in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

"We still need to vote on accepting the three new teams. But that merely is a formality since Singapore, Australia, and India are basically in. They will be competing in the Asia-Pacific tournament in July in Hong Kong."

In other news, Ada said the Rota Junior and Senior League programs will open its 2008 season on May 3.

Ada added Rota will also host the CNMI District Tournament in the Majors, Junior, and Senior league divisions from June 5 to 8.